Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-96-154 *8 August 1996*

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CIS: ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 8 Aug

LD0808072196 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0543 GMT 8 Aug 96

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, August 8 (Itar-Tass) — Today's leading newspapers concentrate on two main topics: storming of Groznyy by Chechen rebels and the congress of the People's Patriotic Union of Russia (new opposition movement).

Izvestiya newspaper analyst Valeriy Yakov managed to contact by telephone the Chechen government building situated in downtown Groznyy. There is no government in the building: they moved to the Khankala suburb where the headquarters of federal forces is deployed, but the receiver on the other end of the line was lifted by a man who said: "Sergeant Andrey Timofeyev speaking. We are fully encircled.

"Rebels are 30-50 meters away from us. It is noisy here, because helicopter gunships are bombing. Nobody was killed so far. For how long shall we hold on? For long. We have enough ammunition. However, boys say that gunmen plan to overrun the Government House by August 9, Yeltsin's inauguration day..."

The Komsomolskaya Pravda newspaper notes: "It is foolish to think that there is 'good opposition and bad'. We are told that we should come to agreement with the first and shouldn't with the second.

"The country is full of rumours about a split among rebels. Deuce take it. Russian troops are confronted by a strong, well-disciplined and well-armed guerilla army."

The army newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda carries an interview with Lieutenant-General Konstantin Pulikovsky, commander of Russian temporary forces in the Chechen Republic, who said the following: "I claimed and claim now that any racial contradictions can be settled peacefully.

"True, if we do it in good time. But if a disease was neglected, as is the case with Chechnya, we are obliged to use force. There is no other version," he added.

The Segodnya newspaper holds that "there is no possibly tactical aim of the rebel operation, and it is safe to suppose that gunmen, making anything they want to forced defenders of the government buildings, will leave this area along all possible routes".

"It is self-evident," the Nezavisimaya newspaper writes, "that Russian interior troops and Chechen police whose participation in confrontation is very doubtful, are unable to control the situation."

The Rossiyskiye Vesti newspaper writes in connection with the recent closed plenary meeting of the Communist Party central committee: "The meeting discussed the same issues as the previous one: unity of communists, preparations for the establishment of the People's Patriotic Union and its participation in the elections of the heads of administrations and legislative assemblies of the Russian Federation's subjects, which are scheduled for this autumn.

"As for 'unity of communists', this slogan presupposes the final organisational unification of all communist parties into a single one, a kind of Komintern (Eds: This organisation united all the communist parties in the world in the 1930s and was disbanded during the Second World War) for the Commonwealth of Independent States," the daily writes.

According to Segodnya, "an attempt to arm itself with a synthetic ideology resulted for the movement in serious losses even at the stage of establishment. The first loss was expected: radical communists did not join the movement".

"Evidently to dispel propaganda myths and to pacify extremely proud allies," the Nezavisimaya newspaper notes, "the topic of equality of all the present and future participants in the movement was raised repeatedly at the founding congress of the movement on Tuesday.

"Although no specific evidence that the Russian Communist Party is a rank-and-file member of the movement (obviously due to impossibility to do this), was offered, much was said that the main thing is to pool efforts," the newspaper writes.

The opposition newspaper Sovetskaya Rossiya carries an address by the movement to citizens of Russia.

Izvestiya laid hands on a document recently adopted by the State Duma (Russian parliament lower house) with great secrecy. The document provides for allocating free budget subsidies to non-Moscow legislators to purchase Moscow flats as private property.

The size of "the compensation" totals 60,000 U.S. dollars for each deputy. Therefore, one can now safely say that the housing problem in Russia has been resolved, at least for "the favourate sons" of the nation.

CIS: Pacts Ratified Allow CIS Citizens To Serve With Russian Troops

LD0708120296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1110 GMT 7 Aug 96

[By Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, August 7 (Itar-Tass) — The Federation Council upper house of par-

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liament today ratified Russia's agreements with Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to allow citizens of those CIS member-countries to serve with the border troops of the Russian Federation stationed in the territories of the above republics.

The agreements which Russia signed with Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan on the manning of the Russian border troops with citizens of those countries provide for their voluntary enrollment and service in the Russian borderguard forces deployed in the republics.

The parties to the agreements pledge to create necessary conditions for the enrollment on a contract basis into the Russian border troops stationed in the territories of Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan of citizens of respective republics.

Both the enrollment and the service will be conducted in keeping with Russian legislation.

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Russia: NATO Must Accept Russia's 'European Status'

MM0808083196 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Aug 96 p 7

[Article by Doctor of Political Sciences Igor Maksimychev of the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Europe: "NATO Is Looking Eastward. And It Cannot Fail To See Russia There"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The year-long moratorium on public discussion of the conditions governing NATO's eastward expansion, announced by the bloc late last year, is approaching its end. Now that the moratorium's main aim, which was to avoid erecting any obstacle to the Russian president's election victory, has been attained it is possible, in the West's opinion, to pay less heed to Russians' feelings, particularly as, according to NATO, with its hands full with internal problems Russia is scarcely going to be able to react rapidly to the plans which have been so much talked about in the past and whose implementation was predetermined long ago.

The slight pause in Russian foreign policy activity due to the president's upcoming inauguration and the formation of the new government has created the impression in the West that the expectations concerning Moscow's restrained reaction could be justified.

The U.S. House of Representatives has even hastened to assign $60 million to help Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary join the bloc. There are no grounds for doubting that the NATO Council's December session will make an appropriate decision in this vein.

The West's persistence is mainly due to the fact that the bloc's very existence in the new historical situation that has arisen since the collapse of the Soviet bloc is bound up with the prospect of NATO's expansion. Only a superficial observer could think that everything in NATO is fine and that there is absolutely no risk that the good times could be on the way out in the absence of a worthy rival.

They have always known how to count their pennies in the West, and an expensive instrument like NATO has to demonstrate its necessity if taxpayers are not to revolt against pointless expenditure on its upkeep. That is precisely why the plans for the "new NATO" have been at the center of internal discussion on the future of the Western system of collective defense (which is far from identical to a system of collective security) since 1990-1991.

The plan to expand the bloc by including Central and East European countries went down well with its leadership for precisely that reason, giving rise to the illusion that they would thereby manage to avoid a fundamental disruption of the whole of its organizational structure. The fact that this plan met with a sharply negative response from Russia, which regarded it as an attempt to resolve the alliance's internal conflicts and difficulties at its expense, was seen as disagreeable but not catastrophic.

Russia has no chance of preventing NATO structures from approaching its virtually unprotected Western borders. It is important for Russian foreign policy, in our view, that the right line be defined in the prevailing situation while, owing to its internal weakness, the degree of Russia's influence on international affairs remains not very significant. It is essential to be able to utilize every factor capable of advancing the cause — particularly the NATO leadership's recent official promises to take Moscow's objections into account.

Political realism suggests that it is advisable for us to take our Western partners at their word. And this must be done without delay, without waiting for December 1996, when, in line with NATO's timetable, the bloc's decision on the admission of new members will assume its final shape. We cannot allow this decision to be made against us. The Western politicians' proposals concerning the establishment of "special relations" between NATO and Russia or the conclusion of a "special charter" creating a legal basis for the partnership between them in the sphere of European security need fleshing out.0

The main condition of Russian-NATO discussions is that they should not take place under pressure — in the shape, say, of ultimatums or tight deadlines for completion of the talks. Given that no conflagration is expected in Europe in the foreseeable future, the sides have a wonderful opportunity to weigh up all the pros and cons in their different permutations. From this standpoint, it cannot be ruled out that the prospect of NATO expansion will in some way serve a positive function, forcing Europeans to seach for solutions which will ensure the emergence of broader European structures. Once the foundations of a common European structure are created, questions of admission or nonadmission to unions, alliances, or blocs embracing only part of Europe will lose their point.

The Western reaction to the progress and results of the Russian presidential election would primarily seem to indicate the need for a cautious but definite recognition of Russia's status as an integral member of the European family of states and peoples. The notion that "belonging to Europe is a state of mind rather than a fact of geography" has become a most popular one in the West since the collapse of the USSR. It was designed to destroy any objective criterion for issuing a residence

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permit to the Common European Home which the West promised to construct for Mikhail Gorbachev. It was possible to use this notion to justify any means you fancied for including some European states in European integration and ignoring others.

The validity of some Western politicians' aspirations to decide arbitrarily which Europeans have "attained" the "state of mind," which not, and which will never do so has been undermined today. Russia is vitally important to the continent's well-being. The very specter of discord in Russia's area has highlighted the whole vulnerability of Europe's existence.

The actions of our politicians, who have been frightening themselves with all manner of "plots," "putsches," "civil war," and so forth, clearly cannot be regarded as proper. But for the West these polemical devices have had a beneficial effect. The realization of the interconnection between stability in Russia and prosperity for the rest of Europe has served as a powerful spur to reexamination of the West's previous stance toward Russia's "European potential."

Everyone has realized that it would be suicide to push Russia "out of Europe." Thus Russia's European status has been acknowledged. It is now necessary to wait for the practical conclusions to follow.

A level-headed look at the situation in Europe indicates that for the foreseeable future NATO will be unable to remove Russia or Russia NATO even if they were very keen on doing so. However, they could do a very great deal of harm to each other, and from this standpoint NATO members should not underestimate the potential which Russia retains even today. As a result irreparable harm would be done to Europe in general and each European state in particular.

Russia: Moscow Criticizes D'Amato Bill, Rounds Up EU Reaction

NC0808063896 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in Persian 1500 GMT 7 Aug 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] As you know, the American bill on economic sanctions on non-American companies, the annual investments of which in Iranian and Libyan gas and oil industries is over $40 million, was approved on Monday. This bill received the name of its initiator, Senator D'Amato. Our Radio Moscow commentator writes on this:

The D'Amato bill showed that America continues to be faithful to its theory in its foreign policy, which has been chosen once and for all. According to this theory, America is the center of the universe with other countries orbiting around it. These countries, some of which are farther and some closer to the center, are condemned to move exactly like the center. But this will sooner or later lead to an explosion—a word that describes the wave of rage that was expressed by all the major countries of the world after Bill Clinton approved the D'Amato bill.

Meanwhile, the European Union [EU] [words indistinct], America's closest ally, has issued the most strongly worded statements on this. But [word indistinct] that suddenly the EU's (?rage) [words indistinct]. The European countries have serious complaints against the Iranian officials. But, contrary to America, they have not given up on the so-called exploratory talks with Tehran and have continued to expand their commercial and economic relations with Tehran in tandem.

In the opinion of Britain, France, Germany, Italy, and a number of other countries, the threat to implement punishments that transcend borders does not conform with the objective of fighting international terrorism, which Washington is accusing Tehran and Tripoli of supporting. The Italian Foreign Ministry has stressed that the fight against terrorism calls for cooperation among the world community and not unilateral sanctions that do not conform with the interests of Washington's allies.

France has warned America that if the American sanctions are implemented against European companies that have economic interests in the two said Islamic countries, it will take reciprocal steps. According to the French Foreign Ministry spokesman, Washington has not yet handed any documents to the European countries that prove Iran's involvement in terrorist acts against American installations on U.S. territory and abroad. Also, China, Canada, Japan, and Australia—countries that did not seem to have any economic interests in Iran and Libya—issued statements in a similar tone.

According to existing [word indistinct], the EU members do not intend to suffice with the issuing of statements, but are seriously thinking about reciprocal acts. At any rate, in view of a REUTERS report from Tehran, apparently the heads of the EU diplomatic missions intend to meet in the Iranian capital within the next 10 days and to examine the possible outcome of the D'Amato bill. [words indistinct], and according to an Iranian Foreign Ministry statement, this bill is doomed to fail and will lead to America's isolation on the international scene. News on the approval of the said bill by Bill Clinton was broadcast at the end of the newscast in [words indistinct]. The English-language IRAN NEWS writes that the new bill will be recorded in history as one of the most illogical and irresponsible bills signed by the American President. [words indistinct] Iran is

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expecting constructive and more open talks with Europe because of [words indistinct]. Meanwhile, [words indistinct] that these stands do not differ. Russian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Vladimir Andreyev said that [words indistinct] of the D'Amato bill is contrary to international law. The D'Amato bill will not (?help) in the establishment of stability in the Middle East and in the fight against terrorism. He also stressed that the Russian Foreign Ministry will examine whether [words indistinct].

Russia: Zhirinovskiy Assails U.S. Sanctions on Iran, Libya

LD0708194396 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1112 GMT 7 Aug 96

[by ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 7 Aug — Vladimir Zhirinovskiy described U.S. economic sanctions against foreign companies cooperating with Iran and Libya in the oil and gas sector as "pretentions to establish a new world order." He made this remark at his news conference in the State Duma today.

In effect the leader of the Liberal Democrats was supporting the positions of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which officially stated yesterday that the law signed by the U.S. President envisaging the imposition of economic sanctions is a unilateral act contradicting international law. "Europe, which takes 20 percent of Libyan and Iranian oil, should counter the Americans' insolent tricks in these circumstances with solidarity," V. Zhirinovskiy believes.

The leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia fraction in the State Duma expressed surprise that influential Russian political parties, including the communists,"maintain silence over the American decision."

Russia: Moscow 'Aware' of U.S. Plan To Detain Mladic, Karadzic

LD0708141996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1359 GMT 7 Aug 96

[By "INTERFAX observer" Igor Porshnev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Aug 7 (Interfax) — Russian security services are aware of U.S. plans to use troops to capture Bosnian Serb leaders Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic and take them to The Hague for trial, sources in the Russian security services told INTERFAX.

They believe it is technically possible to carry out such an operation.

However the sources differ as to consequences such an operation could have.

Some say that eliminating Karadzic and Mladic from the political arena on the eve of parliamentary elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina due on September 14 would inflame Bosnian Serbs, moving the most radical of them to carry out terrorist acts against U.S. troops deployed in Bosnia as part of the IFOR [Implementation Force].

Others believe that the U.S. action, which apparently lacks support among European NATO members, would not change the situation in Bosnia, let alone lead to an explosion.

To support their view, the sources point to the events of a year ago, when many analysts said the use of NATO aviation to carry out strikes against Bosnian Serb positions would provoke them to retaliation acts against Americans.

"It did not happen. On the contrary, Bosnian Serbs became more acquiescing, which in the long-run allowed the Dayton Accords," said a source.

A high-ranking Russian Foreign Ministry official would not question the arguments but said that "the Americans are clearly demonizing Karadzic and Mladic in the run-up to the U.S. presidential elections.

"Obviously, these personalities are not the problem. Even less so since Karadzic formally left the political arena by quitting as the president of the Republika Srpska and the Serb Democratic Party leader," he said.

He recalled a recent statement by Karadzic's successor, Biljana Plavsic, that the Bosnian Serb political leader is prepared to be tried by the International Tribunal for former Yugoslavia if the leaders of other sides in the Bosnian conflict do the same.

The diplomat doubts that the leaders of Bosnian Croats and Muslims will meet these expectations. He also expressed doubt that the U.S. plan to capture Karadzic and Mladic and escort them to The Hague will be implemented. "Security services exist in all countries in particular in order to work out various plans and scenarios. Hardly all of them are later approved by the political leadership," he said.

However, if the United States carries out the operation, the official Moscow reaction will most likely be very negative, said the diplomat.

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Russia: Inkombank Oversight Council Statement on U.S. Court Case

MM0708141096 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 6 Aug 96 p 2

["Statement by Inkombank' Joint-Stock Bank Oversight Council" dated 1 August 1996]

[FBIS Translated Text] In connection with the publication of materials in the newspaper MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 31 July 1996 and ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 1 August 1996 about the court case in the United States involving the "Inkombank" Joint-Stock Bank, the Bank's Oversight Council issues the following statement:

The Bank is indeed conducting court cases in the United States against the Bank's former American lawyer Mr. Zeltser [as transliterated], accusing him and a number of others of embezzling the funds of the Bank's clients and shareholders.

The Bank's Oversight Council is in receipt of exhaustive information and has repeatedly considered these matters at its meetings. The Council decided to start court proceedings in 1994 after seeing the results of an investigation carried out on the Bank's initiative by the American accounting firm Peterson Consulting.

In June 1995 the district court in New York State's Southern District rejected a counterclaim against "Inkombank" from two companies connected with Mr. Zeltser.

The Oversight Council fully supports the active part that the Bank's president and governing body are playing in the court case to recover the funds embezzled from the Bank and declares that the interests of clients and shareholders will continue to be protected in accordance with the law and banking confidentiality.

The Oversight Council points out that from 1994 the Central Bank of the Russian Federation was regularly briefed on the substance of the Bank's court cases.

[Signed] Oversight Council

Members of the Bank's Oversight Council:

N. K. Alekseyev, first deputy chairman of the "Mashinoimport" GPVO [expansion unknown]
V. V. Vinogradov, president of the "Inkombank" Joint-Stock Bank
N. I. Garkavenko, deputy general director of the "Rosugol" Company
V. P. Groshev, chairman of the "Inkombank" Joint-Stock Bank Oversight Council
P. I. Gurkalov, general director of the "Nosta" Joint-Stock Company
A. N. Kolotilin, president of the "Nafta-Moskva" Joint-Stock Company
Yu. S. Komratov, general director of the Nizhniy Tagil Metallurgical Combine
L. I. Loza, general director of the "Novorossiyskoye Morskoye Parokhodstvo" Open-Type Joint-Stock Company
V. Ch. Nadolnik, general director of the "Sovbunker" All-Russia Joint-Stock Company
S. M. Nosenko, general director of the "Babayevskoye" Joint-Stock Company
M. B. Ovodenko, general director of the "Sameko" Joint-Stock Company
V. M. Pomolov, general director of the "Sokol" Nizhniy Novgorod Aircraft Manufacturing Plant Open-Type Joint-Stock Company
O. M. Smirnov, chairman of the "Promsyreimport" GPVO
A. I. Fedorov, general director of the Irkutsk Aircraft Production Association
V. D. Chernyayev, president of the "Transneft" Joint-Stock Company
R. F. Sharipov, general director of the "Magnitogorskaya Stal" Joint-Stock Company

Russia: Moscow, World Bank Sign Loan Agreement Worth $300 Million

LD0708122496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1122 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Aug 7 (FIA-Interfax) - The World Bank and Russia have signed a loan agreement worth $300 million to implement a project involving the transfer of departmental housing into municipal property, the bank's Moscow office told Interfax's Financial Information Agency.

The project, worth a total of $551 million, aims to "create a stable mechanism for funding and managing the housing fund at the expense of the private sector of Russia," the office said.

Six Russian cities, namely Orenburg, Petrozavodsk, Ryazan, Vladimir, Volkhov and Cherepovets, have been selected for the project, the Russian Business Restructuring Fund told the FIA. Housing reform in these cities has achieved most progress, the project architects believe.

The project's implementation, to take six years, will include an upgrade of the housing and utilities transferred and the creation of a system of housing subsidies for the least socially protected families.

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The project also aims to improve housing management and introduce energy-saving technologies in this area. World Bank experts believe that these measures will promote competition on the housing market.

Russia will invest $249 million in the project, while the remaining $2 million will be financed by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

The loan will be made for 15 years, the redemption to start in six years, under a floating interest rate. The rate will be calculated on the basis of the six-month LIBOR rate plus the usual margin of the World Bank, at present about 6 percent.

Russia: Rodionov, Belarusian Official Discuss Cooperation, Security

LD0708140796 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1258 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 7 Aug — Colonel General Igor Rodionov, Russian defense minister, had a meeting today with Viktar Sheyman, Belarusian secretary of state of the Security Council. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the information department of the Ministry of Defense that during a "warm and friendly meeting, they discussed the state of and prospects for the development of military cooperation between the two countries and problems of building a new system of European security."

The two sides were unanimous in the opinion that the implementation of NATO's plans for eastward expansion would not promote better security on the continent of Europe.

It has become known from circles close to the defense minister that during the meeting Sheyman, on behalf of Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka, invited Rodionov to visit Minsk. This offer was accepted by the Russian Federation defense minister, with the date to be decided in the near future.

Russia: Polish Roundtable on Chechnya Ignored, U.S. Bill Dismissed

MM0708134096 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Aug 96 p 3

[Report by Yevgeniy Bay: "The Chechen Trail in Warsaw and Washington"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The world devoted more attention to the single bomb explosion at the Olympic Games in Atlanta than to the thousands of bombs falling on Chechnya" — this statement, distributed by the right-wing opposition "Movement for the Restoration of Poland," could well serve as a banner for the roundtable on Chechnya that has opened in Warsaw and Krakow.

The organizers of the action timed it to coincide with the anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising, which was cruelly crushed by the Germans at the end of World War II. At the same time, the idea was stubbornly advanced that the West's indifference to the conflict in the North Caucasus is comparable with its indifference to the fate of the Polish insurrectionists 52 years ago.

The conference was attended mainly by Poles and Chechens living in Poland, Denmark, Lithuania, and Jordan. Several Russian human rights campaigners, including Sergey Grigoryants, chairman of the "Glasnost" foundation, also came to Poland. In his speech he accused the Russian special services of organizing the recent explosions in Moscow themselves in order to unleash an anti-Chechen campaign.

Former Polish President Lech Walesa also displayed an unexpected interest in Chechnya. While in power he tried not to focus attention on this topic, not wishing to complicate relations with the Kremlin. Since moving into opposition Walesa has decided to make up for lost time. On the eve of the roundtable opening he appealed to his fellow Nobel Peace Prize laureates to stop the "criminal genocide" being committed by the Russian government, which, in Walesa's opinion, should have no place "in the family of civilized nations."

Moscow has not so far reacted in any way to the events taking place in Poland. At the same time, the Russian authorities did not choose to ignore another overseas demarche in support of the Chechens. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs through its official spokesman Vladimir Andreyev strongly condemned an amendment to the bill on appropriations for foreign operations in 1997 adopted by the U.S. Congress the other day. The amendment, authored by Senator Jesse Helms, links aid to Russia with the situation in Chechnya and assigns responsibility for the deteriorating situation in the republic to the federal forces. "We have been obliged several times in the recent past to comment on decisions by U.S. legislators that can only be described as strange. It cannot be ruled out that this heightened interest on the part of certain senators and congressmen in foreign policy is connected with the growing election activity in the United States," Vladimir Andreyev suggested.

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Political Issues

Russia: Yeltsin Insists on 'Simpler' Inauguration Ceremony

LD0708172296 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yeltsin held a working meeting in the Kremlin with Anatoliy Chubays, the chief of his administration. They discussed the current activity of the president's staff and issues relating to the improvement of the structure of the president's administration. Anatoliy Chubays reported on the progress of preparations for the ceremony of the Russian president's inauguration on 9 August.

The president liked the second simpler and more rigorous plan for the inauguration ceremony. According to Boris Yeltsin, there is no spare cash in the state treasury for pompous ceremonies. The second plan will save the treasury 9 billion rubles.

Russia: Yeltsin Inauguration Agenda Sketched

MK0808105996 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 7 Aug 96 p 2

[Report by Dmitriy Volkov under the "Ceremony" rubric: "Boris Yeltsin To Introduce Premier to the Duma on Friday Afternoon"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today the State Duma Council is planning to discuss the procedure for the upcoming confirmation of the prime minister's candidacy, which Boris Yeltsin is expected to submit to the lower chamber right after his inauguration on 9 August. State Duma Deputy Speaker Aleksandr Shokhin has told news agencies that the chamber meeting to confirm the premier's candidacy has been tentatively scheduled for Saturday. "Although no surprises regarding the name (of the candidate for the premier — Ed.) are expected, we would prefer to start discussing it after the president's official letter," Mr. Shokhin said. The deputy speaker believes that after either the chamber chairman or a representative of the president reads the letter by the head of state to the Duma, the floor will be given to the candidate himself (evidently, Viktor Chernomyrdin). "The Communists would not like to spurn Mr. Chernomyrdin" because "the president could have chosen another candidate that could be more adverse from the Communist point of view," Mr. Shokhin said, "but, on the other hand, their 'Yes' vote could be interpreted as a vote of confidence in the government, something they would like to avoid."

Under the Constitution, the president may not nominate the prime minister before he is sworn in. According to Mr. Shokhin, this means that the official submission of the candidacy could take place on Friday afternoon. However, the deputies will probably receive the letter containing the name of the candidate later, because after the inauguration ceremony they are invited to a formal reception at the Kremlin.

In the meantime, the Hydrometeorological Center forecasts cloudy skies with a maximum temperature of 15-17 degrees Celsius for Friday. Rain is a likely possibility along with a northeasterly wind of 5 to 10 meters per second. The Central Aerological Observatory, which is known for its operations to disperse clouds over the sites of festivities in the Russian capital, this time declined "to perform work to prevent precipitation," citing a shortage of time. Informed sources at the Kremlin have told SEGODNYA that, by some estimates, this procedure would cost 6 billion rubles, which was considered to be an unaffordably expensive operation.

Generally speaking, according to informed sources, by the time the scenario of the ceremony was finalized cost-saving considerations were seen as a most significant factor — political reasons were involved. For instance, there will be no large-scale fireworks throughout the city; they will be limited to a salute on the Kremlin quay. Owing to the same cost-saving attempts, and the unfavorable weather forecast, the ceremony could still be moved indoors from the Kremlin's Cathedral Square to the former Kremlin Palace of Congresses, renamed the State Kremlin Palace.

The ceremony will start at noon, and at this moment the Kremlin tower clock will, for the first time in history, play the tune of the Russian anthem. According to SEGODNYA's information, the inauguration of Boris Yeltsin will last for 30-40 minutes. Initially, the joint brass band will perform the so-called "Presidential Fanfare," which has, over the past few years, accompanied ceremonial appearances by the head of state, and then the anthem of the Russian Federation. After Boris Yeltsin's oath of office the "Ceremonial Song," composed for the occasion by Presidential Orchestra chief Pavel Ovsyannikov, will be performed. And, in the end, comes the "Glory" finale from Mikhail Glinka's "Life for the Tsar" opera. The ceremony will be accompanied by an artillery salute.

Changes have been made to the ceremony for awarding the president with his symbols of office, including the Order of Services to the Fatherland, which will be handed to Boris Yeltsin by Federation Council head Yegor Stroyev, not Constitutional Court Chairman Vladimir Tumanov, as was initially planned. Afterward, the presidential banner will be hoisted over the dome of the Yekatereninskiy Hall. After reading the official text

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of his oath of office, Boris Yeltsin might make a brief speech, in which he will spell out the main purpose of his second term. "Members of the inauguration commission think it necessary that in addition to the universal constitutional text of the oath, which is intended for centuries, the president should say a couple of historic words and add something of his own," Mr. Shokhin said. Finally, Boris Yeltsin is to be given a certificate as winner of the second Russian president election, as well as the ID of the president of the Russian Federation.

Foreign countries of the "far abroad" will be represented by their ambassadors. Official invitations have been sent to the CIS heads of state and, according to Mr. Shokhin, they have all confirmed that they will attend, including Leonid Kuchma, who will mark his birthday on Friday. Mr. Shokhin also expects Russian Orthodox Patriarch Aleksiy II to welcome Boris Yeltsin at the ceremony on behalf of religious denominations. "These are going to be simple words, not a blessing or unction," he emphasized.

City Hall plans "to occupy downtown Moscow" with appropriate events, for which reason it allowed a rally — which does not seem to fit into the festive mood — under the slogans "Fulfill Electoral Pledges on Chechnya!" and "Call Embezzlers From Television To Account as Criminals!" etc. to take place outside the All-Russia Exhibition Center. State Duma Deputy Vladimir Katalnikov from Rostov Oblast told SEGODNYA that inauguration-related measures will also be taken by Rostov coal miners, who are planning "to burn Boris Nikolayevich in effigy." Moscow can console itself with the suggestion that the ritual might be targeting only Yeltsin's first presidential term.

Russia: Yeltsin Faces Major Second-Term Challenges

MM0708190096 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Aug 96 p 3

[Article by Stanislav Kondrashov: "Before Yeltsin's Second Term in the Kremlin"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In all the dissections of the presidential elections one substantial subject seems to have been completely left out. Boris Yeltsin was elected for his first term as president of the biggest republic in the USSR. This time, having revalidated his mandate in completely new historical conditions, most voters have "accepted" the main event of the first period of Yeltsin's presidency — the total disintegration of the USSR.

This, as it were, contradicts the preelection mood, when scrupulous public opinion polls registered time and again that approximately two-thirds of Russia's citizens feel nostalgia for the former common fatherland. But the contradiction is only superficial. Feelings are one thing, but common sense based on an accomplished fact and the impossibility of reversing history is something completely different. It was common sense whose voice was heard in the voting results.

Using Yesenin's language, instead of Rus departing after 1917 we are now recording the departing Union. Or rather, departed. The Union started to depart in December 1991 or even earlier. The Union finally departed on 3 July 1996.

In the famous poem "Rus Departing" the 20-year-old Yesenin expressed the truth with lyrical abandon: "Friends! Friends! What division in the country, What sadness in the bubbling excitement! If only I knew why I too am so keen to pull on my pants and run after the Komsomol. Sad as I am, I don't blame the departing ones. After all, when do old folk ever go chasing after the young? They are unharvested rye in the field. Left to rot and wither."

In what respect is this not the picture today?

Another reason why the Union finally departed was because it was again represented at the elections by the heirs of those who had predetermined both its greatness and its decline. Henceforth the opposition will play this card more rarely and less recklessly. The people have accepted the new historical reality despite the new trials and tribulations.

In this far from fully formed reality there is one aspect which I would like to single out — foreign policy. The fact that the Soviet Union has departed does not mean that the Rus to which Yesenin was bidding farewell has returned. In the historical-state and geopolitical sense 1917 Rus was an empire. When the Russian empire "weighed anchor," a short time later the Soviet Union "dropped anchor" at the same mooring.

Meanwhile the departing Soviet Union means farewell to the empire and imperial messianism, whether it is called the orthodox Third Rime or the communist Third International. Whether our future is successful or not depends on whether this farewell is successful or not.

How will the inevitable and extremely necessary integration in the post-Soviet area be separated from the imperial propensities which have cost Russians most dear? How will the rights of Russians and the Russian-speaking millions who have fallen into a historical cataclysm like a chicken ready to be plucked be protected (toughly, if necessary) in the process?

Not just one Scylla and Charybdis but a whole plethora of them, which have been overshadowed by the Chechen

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imperative, are looming in front of second-term Yeltsin. And how the Russian ship of state squeezes between them will determine the president's reputation in history: a destroyer, judged by the main results of his first term, or a creator, to which he is laying claim now.

Sevastopol, Crimea, and the Black Sea Fleet in Russia's relations with Ukraine have not melted away and are hardly likely to, no matter how long he puts off his visit to Kiev. Russians in Kazakhstan, of whom there are as many as there are Kazakhs but who are being squeezed increasingly noticeably into the role of a not completely equal minority.

How are these problems to be solved not with an iron first, which, coincidentally, lacks its previous force, but by safeguarding the lawful rights of our people, whom it would be unforgivable for a democratic state to abandon to the will of fate? As yet these problems barely register at the level of the ruling elites given the uninterested, indifferent attitude of the masses, who are tackling "gut" tasks of survival. They will arise starkly if the new Russia becomes strong.

Or the Far East. Its growing sores could acquire an undesirable international aspect. The strikes and hunger strikes on the eve of Yeltsin's second inauguration as president are fresh evidence that it is increasingly difficult for the working man to live there, that the hand of Moscow is weakening, and that the local elite are exploiting the opportunities of the new federalism to line their own pockets.

The Far East was an acquisition of empire and kept within the imperial hoops of both the old Russia and the Soviet Union. As yet there are no new hoops or magnets operating on the principles of benefit. Will they emerge in the non-empire? Or given the present process of evolution, will the Far East, which has been extremely weakened at a time when China is growing into a superpower and Japan is already one in economic terms, also "cut loose" from Russia?

For centuries Russia developed along the imperial road. It now faces a historic task of incredible difficulty — changing its model of development. This is like changing the character of a person who is far advanced in years. And at the same time it is a task which is not so much voluntary, as many people erroneously imagine, as imperative. Changing the model of development is the only path to self-preservation and self-salvation after an empire has collapsed from an insupportable burden.

We must not cast away stones but gather them together, albeit on a shrunken territory, and transform them as far as possible into loaves, by the miraculous method of Jesus Christ.

But as yet we with our "flat" economy are falling further and into the category of world stragglers. Russia is tolerated in the political antechamber of the "big seven" because of a noneconomic factor — those old imperial nuclear weapons — and also so they can keep an eye on it. To date Russian big capital has been very successful at extorting money but not at organizing production. Thisis not the way to secure a favorable climate in Russian society or a respectful attitude in the world.

The Western powers, heaving a sigh of relief after Yeltsin's reelection, will go over to a firmer, not to say tough, way of dealing with Russia. This will doubtless manifest itself in the U.S. stance with regard to the aforementioned Scylla and Charybdis.

NATO expansion is a separate issue. They intend well and truly to "lock" Russia in on the western side and keep it in a state of tension. But surely, objectively speaking, this will benefit the new, nonimperial model of Russia's historical development? Surely this will force it, for fear of the whip, to forget the past and concentrate on the future, which must be sought not outside, but within, in a new, democratic, efficient way of organizing itself, in the interests first and foremost of the individual, the citizen, and not the all-powerful state?

Maybe every cloud really does have a silver lining? Maybe. But another popular Russian saying declares that a stick has two ends. And somehow it is hard to imagine NATO expansion as being the end of the stick that would drive Russians toward a bright future. Especially since in that case the expected reaction of the other end of the stick would be sweeping neo-imperial movements.

Russia: Yeltsin Appoints New Presidential Adviser

LD0708142296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1346 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Aug 7 (Interfax) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Wednesday issued a decree creating a new presidential adviser position for Sergey Krasavchenko, the presidential press service told Interfax.

Krasavchenko was dismissed as Russian first deputy presidential chief of staff by the same decree, Yeltsin's press service said.

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Russia: Yeltsin Returns Bill to Upper Chamber Without Examination

LD0808115996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1140 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, August 8 (Itar-Tass) — President Boris Yeltsin returned, without examination, to the Federation Council (Russian parliament upper chamber) a federal bill on an addendum to Article 35 of the federal law on the status of the deputy of the Federation Council and the status of the deputy of the State Duma (lower chamber), which was submitted to the Russian president for signing and publishing.

The bill was returned, since provisions of part 3 of Article 104 of the Russian Constitution were disregarded when the bill was submitted for consideration to the Duma, says a report by the president's press service, which was received by Itar-Tass on Thursday.

The report notes that, under part 3 of Article 104 of the Russian Constitution, bills, providing for outlays to be covered by the federal budget, may be submitted only if there is a resolution of the Russian government.

Since the State Duma ignored constitutional requirements to the procedure of adopting federal bills, the president found it impossible to sign and publish the federal bill, the press service reports.

Russia: Chernomyrdin's Economic Address Postponed to 9 Aug

LD0808075496 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The speech by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to members of the upper chamber of parliament on the concept of economic reform and the progress of preparations in the country for the coming winter, which had been planned for today, will not take place. As Speaker Yegor Stroyev told parliamentarians, the prime minister will address the Federal Assembly with an extended concept of economic reforms immediately after the inauguration of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, which is planned for 9 August.

In the prime minister's place, First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Lobov today gave an analysis of the economic situation in the country.

Russia: Zyuganov Sets Conditions for Approval of Chernomyrdin

LD0808101596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0949 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Aug 8 (Interfax) — Neither the Communists nor their allies will be able to approve the appointment of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin or his team unless the government policy is corrected, Communist Party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov said in Moscow on Thursday.

He said Communist MPs would meet late on Friday to pass a resolution on the party's stand on a new prime minister.

Zyuganov said his party would insist on a policy review by the new government.

He said that incumbent Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who was authorized by the president to form a new government, had failed to submit a new government economic program or the make-up of a new Cabinet or unveil any plan on how to implement Boris Yeltsin's electoral promises. "There have been no answers to these most serious questions so far," he said.

Zyuganov says the opposition's task is to try to prevent an upsurge of social unrest in different parts of the country now being swept by a wave of strikes. He said the opposition must take control of rising discontent over government and presidential policies.

He lashed out at the government's handling of the situation in the Far East saying tensions were now mounting in the Kuznetsk and Rostov coal mining regions. "The wave of protests is rising in all regions," Zyuganov said.

Russia: Zyuganov Elected Chairman of Popular Patriotic Union

LD0708135996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1302 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Aug 7 (Interfax) — Communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov was unanimously elected chairman of the Popular Patriotic Union of Russia [PPUR] at a closed meeting of the PPUR congress Wednesday, a congress delegate told Interfax.

Zyuganov's candidacy was moved by Stanislav Govorukhin.

Russia: Zyuganov Calls For Strengthening Patriotic Feelings

LD0708130196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1225 GMT 7 Aug 96

[By Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW August 7 (Itar-Tass) — Leader of the Russian Communist Party Gennadiy Zyuganov today called participants in the constituent congress of the People's Patriotic Union of

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Russia for stronger patriotic feelings. He said that they will "lose the country" unless this is achieved.

Zyuganov, the Communist leader, will most probably be also elected leader of the People's Patriotic Union of Russia. "Only a more representative and effective organisation, which a new movement should become, can win, he said. He believes that not one of the present patriotic forces can cope with the task of saving Russia single-handed.

Zyuganov made promises that participants in the new movement will never be "trading their Fatherland". He believes the People's Patriotic Union of Russia will be faced with the tasks of democratic nature — "upholding the country's independence, protecting civic peace, and rights and freedoms of the individual". Zyuganov believes a radical situation which may set off a chain reaction is now forming in the country. "We must ensure control and leadership of a possible mass protest," he said.

The opposition should be prepared for "sudden changes" in the political life, Zyuganov believes. There is no time to lose, and it is necessary to pool the efforts as soon as possible, he said.

Aleksey Podberezkin, one of the ideologists of the People's Patriotic Union, leader of the "Spiritual Heritage" movement, said the Union is formed for a long perspective, 20-30 years. He said the movement is harmed by personal ambitions of leaders and inefficiency in organising. The strategic task of the movement is to "make Russia a world cultural and spiritual leader". The Union should not be merely a movement but a clearly structured organisation, with a powerful material and intellectual base, he believes.

Russia: Lebed Outlines 'Third Way' To Solve Chechen Problem

LD0708121596 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 7 Aug 96

[From the "Vesti" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] At about noon today Secretary of the Security Council Aleksandr Lebed gave an interview for our program. The two ways of ending the war in Chechnya, radical and liberal — we shall describe them thus — have turned out to be unsuitable. That is the view of Aleksandr Lebed, under whose direction a new plan of peacemaking action in Chechnya is being worked out.

[Correspondent R. Baban] The situation is Chechnya has blown up again. The fighting in Groznyy, which has been going on for several days now, is evidence of the obvious unwillingness of the separatists to stop the war in the republic. This statement by Russian Security Council Secretary Aleksandr Lebed was made today in an exclusive interview to our program. But at the same time Lebed is convinced that the chances of a peaceful settlement of the Chechen confrontation are still fairly high. He stressed that until today, the federal center has made consistent steps in this direction. If it has as yet not proved possible to achieve the desired results, then it is not Moscow's fault.

[Begin Lebed recording] Society has long been asking the country's leadership for a solution to the Chechen crisis. Two ways can be discerned. The first way is total destruction of the opposition detachments. We have declined that way, because there lies much bloodshed. The second way is the way of talks, the way of withdrawal of troops. The federal side [word indistinct] a clear and definite way. [end recording]

[Baban] Lebed again stressed that in accordance with the accords which were reached, federal forces have been in the process of withdrawal from Chechnya and road blocks have been in process of removal. But in his opinion, this contradicted the plans of the fighters' leaders. Some of them — Raduyev for instance — have even openly declared this.

Thus, the separatists have absolutely and deliberately declined the second way of a settlement. For the umpteenth time, Aleksandr Lebed states that the roots of the Chechen war should be sought not in the Caucasus, but in Moscow. In his personal opinion, it is here that are located the people in whose interests blood is being shed there.

[Begin Lebed recording] It has long been said — and not by me — about war in general that the wise laugh, the cunning loot, and the fools fight. [end recording]

[Baban] Lebed thinks that to sit Zavgayev and Yandarbiyev down to talks is practically impossible for there is much blood on these people's hands. For the other side a settlement of the Chechen crisis is possible only at a round table. And therefore Lebed today proposed the so-called third way or third option for ending the war.

[Begin Lebed recording] ...and take a look at some kind of new solution, new approach. This is something we are painstakingly seeking. There remains the task of setting up some kind of force which would force, compel Zavgayev and Yandarbiyev to listen. What would it be? Perhaps a congress, a congress of representatives of the peoples of Chechnya, with the representation of all population centers, all faiths, all political parties, movements, and associations, representatives of the

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government, opposition — it is for them to solve it... [end recording]

[Baban] In the meantime, Lebed said, the federal side must repel the attacks and pacify Groznyy.

[Begin Lebed recording] ...and then, despite all the obstructions and the spilt blood, continue the talks. But they will (?form the bedrock), the opinion of the absolute overwhelming majority of the population of Chechnya. [end recording]

Russia: Kozyrev To Become More Active Politically

MK0808072396 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 7 Aug 96 p 2

[Report on interview with Ex-Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev by Vladimir Abarinov; place and date not given: "Andrey Kozyrev: The Time for My Policy Has Come. The Former Minister Believes That 'For the President, the Struggle Is Just Beginning'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is very difficult to get rid of retired politicians today. We shall not point them out: Everybody knows of persons to whom the president has shown the door, but who are persistently trying to squeeze back through the window in search of a new sinecure. In this respect Andrey Kozyrev is the directly opposite example. Having lost the ministerial portfolio he lay low — even too low. [Mr. Kozyrev was the previous Foreign Minister] It is known that he often travels abroad, but even from there no public statements can be heard. Finally, at an international forum in Cran-Montan, [name as transliterated] Switzerland, he broke the vow of silence, but correspondents from Russian news agencies paid no attention to the former minister since it is not our policy to publish statements in double translation without an urgent need. Soon, after some purely technical delays, Mr. Kozyrev agreed to talk with your SEGODNYA correspondent. The conversation took place in a Duma office, far from the grandeur of the Foreign Ministry halls and mansions.

Asked about the reasons for such a long abstention, Kozyrev said that after five years in the Foreign Ministry, where he felt "like a squirrel on a treadmill," he "wanted to keep silent, think, and take a look at things from a broader perspective" — he is sure that he "still has much time ahead." Furthermore, recently Russian political life was dominated by elections, while the ex-minister, by his own admission, did not want to join the "loud choir near the group in jubilation.... I do not think that this is the role that is expected of me." He finds the behavior of many people who suddenly began "to agitate loudly" unnatural, in spite of the fact that "they were parted with undiplomatically." Responding to a comment by your SEGODNYA correspondent that these people have received good dividends from their efforts, Mr. Kozyrev said that he, for one, does not practice a "commercial approach toward politics." Even so, he took part in the [election] campaign, explaining, in private conversations with his Western interlocutors, why there is no alternative to Yeltsin. Not failing to mention that his unofficial contacts were "on quite a high level," Andrey Kozyrev suggested that he has managed to make a certain contribution to a "better understanding of the ruling class" of the preelection situation in Russia.

Now, he supposes, his turn to engage more actively in politics has come: This is a "very responsible and, to a certain extent, watershed moment" — at any rate, no less acute than in advance of the elections. Today, Kozyrev believes, the question at issue is this: "Where is the country headed?" In this regard he would like to "hear just as powerful a choir; yet there is none." Meanwhile, preventing the Communists from coming to power is only "the minimum that allows for a civilized conversation to be conducted." Now "a window of opportunity" has opened for Russia, but a "closed, raw-material-based, inevitably corrupt, model" is quite realistic. This "third option," Andrey Kozyrev thinks, will lead to an extension of the transition period. In foreign policy — also closed and passive — this would mean a further decline in Russian influence. (Having said that, our interlocutor immediately stressed that he is in no way criticizing the current Foreign Ministry. Incidentally, we should also give credit to Yevgeniy Primakov who, as it happens, is absolutely alien to the nasty bureaucratic apparatchik habit of finishing off a defeated predecessor.)

In view of the crucial nature of the present moment, Mr. Kozyrev finds the downturn in social activism inexplicable, at a time when "the president clearly needs support." He believes that "for the president, the struggle is just beginning," because there are forces in the bureaucratic corridors that are, like a mole, undermining the course of reform. At this point the former minister lapsed into mournful reminiscences. The apparat's revenge — about which, in his time, he warned — was accomplished in late 1993. In 1994 and 1995, by his admission, "it simply became impossible to work," because the bureaucracy had consolidated its position. The parliamentary elections, in Kozyrev's view, were the price we had to pay for our insufficient decisiveness. Asked whether the steam will not be dissipated in the blowing of the horn — in the sense that the whole restructuring of the apparat will add up to a regrouping of the bureaucracy — he said that this is precisely what should be prevented at any cost. In his opinion, today "there is a realistic chance, by

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leaning on the preelection upsurge, for making a major breakthrough." This breakthrough, in his view, fully responds to a public mood that is characterized by a "feeling of expectation." Andrey Kozyrev is convinced that "the time for my politics has come." His own best expectations are that the president should appear before the people "as we used to know him." If this does not happen, in two to three years a situation similar to that of the late 80's will emerge: a new wave of a democratic upswing and a new call-up of political figures.

It should be stressed that, during our conversation, Mr. Kozyrev thoroughly avoided any references to personalities, but when asked about specific individuals he did not evade giving answers — even though his comments were rather arcane. Thus, commenting on Chubays, he said that "at the level of impression" he is perceived as an "[electric] bulb" — in the sense that he is a sign of the president's serious intentions. The former minister is not personally acquainted with Gen. Lebed. He believes that the term "good general" by itself presupposes good faith in carrying out orders — nothing more than that. Likewise the word "order" in the general's mouth is, in the mass consciousness, associated with the epithet "old." It was these subconscious associations that, in Mr. Kozyrev's opinion, "to a certain extent," landed Mr. Lebed in third place. At the same time the former minister is "reassured by the factor of openness;" namely, that the general, understanding the complexity of the tasks confronting him, is already rejecting the temptation of easy solutions with, say, respect to the Chechen problem.

Russia: Local Elections Pragmatic, Not Political

MM0708140796 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 7 Aug 96 p 1

[Article by Dmitriy Orlov plus schedules for gubernatorial and legislative elections under the general headline: "The Elections in the Regions Are a Matter of Russia-Wide Concern: The Main Political Forces Have Started Preparing for the Campaign. Will It Be Possible To Re-Enact the Scenario of the Second Round of the Presidential Election During It?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Boris Yeltsin's success in the second round of the 1996 presidential election was based on the fact that the incumbent president was able to bring together the most heterogeneous voters who did not want a return to the past. He also managed to unite the political elite. From the standpoint of forming a unified system of executive power, the elections for 52 governors and 26 legislative assemblies in the Federation components, which are due to be held this fall and which will renew the upper chamber of parliament, constitute a third round of the presidential election. However, re-enacting the second-round scenario by playing off a "proreform" against a "staunchly conservative" candidate in each region is scarcely going to work in the prevailing situation.

This is mainly due to the fact that the picture of voter preferences at the regional level is considerably more variegated. It is perfectly clear that it is the image of the contenders as managers and, in a broader sense, "bosses" capable of solving specific problems concerned with public service provision, housing construction, the prompt payment of wages, high employment provision and the like rather than political allegiances that will be the main reason determining their choice. The examples of recently elected Anatoliy Tyazhlov, Vladimir Yakovlev, and particularly Yuriy Luzhkov are good illustrations of this point. However, the "pragmatic manager" image of the gubernatorial contenders, especially those who are already heads of administration of krays and oblasts or republic leaders, depends directly above all else on the economic situation in the region and the political traditions there.

The marathon starts in Saratov Oblast 1 September and ends in Adyge and Kabardino-Balkaria 12 January 1997, with the bulk of the elections taking place in December. Based on the experience of local, parliamentary, and presidential elections, three months is the minimum time required to run an election campaign. It is not surprising therefore that Russian Presidential Chief of Staff Anatoliy Chubays should call, immediately after his appointment, for "the consolidation of authority in the regions and a simultaneous strengthening of the presidential axis of power wherever required," given that "the presidential team cannot ignore the election of heads of administration which will be starting up very soon." The real tasks which the Presidential Staff has to tackle in the election campaign now under way cannot be described as simple. Uniting the pro-reform regional elites is perhaps the most difficult of all.

The main opponents of the present vertical axis of power are also gearing up for the elections. The election coordinator for the opposition People's Patriotic Union is already known, he is Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF] Central Committee Secretary Viktor Peshkov. According to information from a source in the Communist Party leadership, the tactics of the bloc of which the CPRF forms the foundation will undergo major changes as compared with the presidential election. It is expected that the emphasis in election campaigning will be put on making extensive use of regional electronic media and the mass media in general rather than the previous "door to door" methods.

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Will the opposition gets its "fall revenge" in the elections for the heads of the Federation components and the legislative assemblies? The present vertical axis of executive power is without any doubt considerably more effective than its possible replacement from the "opposition." However, that efficiency has to be demonstrated to the electorate again.

Timetable for the Elections of Heads of Republics, Heads of Administration, and Governors in 1996

1. Saratov Oblast — 1 September
2. Amur Oblast — 22 September
3. Leningrad Oblast — 29 September
4. Rostov Oblast — 29 September
5. Vologda Oblast — 6 October
6. Kaliningrad Oblast — 6 October
7. Kirov Oblast — 6 October
8. Yamalo-Nenetsk Autonomous Okrug — 13 October
9. Pskov Oblast — 20 October
10. Sakhalin Oblast — 20 October
11. Jewish Autonomous Oblast — 20 October
12. Krasnodar Kray — 27 October
13. Chita Oblast — 27 October
14. Aga Buryat Autonomous Okrug— 27 October
15. Koryak Autonomous Okrug — 27 October
16. Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug — 27 October
17. Altay Kray — 17 November
18. Murmansk Oblast — 17 November
19. Kamchatka Oblast — 17 November
20. Ust-Orda Buryat Autonomous Okrug — 17 November
21. Kurgan Oblast — 24 November
22. Republic of Khakasia — 1 December
23. Ivanovo Oblast — 1 December
24. Samara Oblast — 1 December
25. Nenets Autonomous Okrug — 1 December
26. Khabarovsk Kray — 8 December
27. Bryansk Oblast — 8 December
28. Voronezh Oblast — 8 December
29. Kostroma Oblast — 8 December
30. Arkhangelsk Oblast — 15 December
31. Vladimir Oblast — 15 December
32. Kaluga Oblast — 15 December
33. Kursk Oblast — 15 December
34. Ryazan Oblast — 15 December
35. Perm Oblast — 15 December
36. Chelyabinsk Oblast — 15 December
37. Evenki Autonomous Okrug — 15 December
38. Volgograd Oblast — 22 December
39. Tyumen Oblast — 22 December
40. Chukot Autonomous Okrug — 22 December
41. Republic of Mari El — December
42. Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) — December
43. Stavropol Kray — December
44. Astrakhan Oblast — December
45. Tula Oblast — December
46. Ulyanovsk Oblast — December
47. Kemerovo Oblast — December
48. Magadan Oblast — December
49. Komi-Permyak Autonomous Okrug — December
50. Taymir (Dolgano-Nenetsk) Autonomous Okrug — December
51. Republic of Adyge — 12 January 1997
52. Kabardino-Balkar Republic — 12 January 1997

Timetable for the Holding of Elections to the Legislative (Representative) Organs of State Authority of the Components of the Russian Federation in 1996

1. Republic of Mari El (State Assembly) — 6 October
2. Republic of Khakasia (Supreme Council) — December
3. Amur Oblast (Oblast Assembly) — October
4. Bryansk Oblast (Oblast Duma) — 8 December
5. Vladimir Oblast (Oblast Duma) — 15 December
6. Ivanovo Oblast (Legislative Assembly) — 1 December
7. Kaliningrad Oblast (Oblast Duma) — 6 December
8. Kaluga Oblast (Legislative Assembly) — 25 August
9. Kostroma Oblast (Oblast Duma) — December
10. Leningrad Oblast (Legislative Assembly) — 17 November
11. Magadan Oblast (Oblast Duma) — December
12. Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast (Legislative Assembly) — December
13. Orenburg Oblast (Legislative Assembly) — December
14. Penza Oblast (Oblast Duma) — December
15. Perm Oblast (Legislative Assembly) — December
16. Pskov Oblast (Oblast Assembly of Deputies) — December
17. Sakhalin Oblast (Oblast Duma) — 6 October
18. Tula Oblast (Oblast Duma) — 29 September
19. Chita Oblast (Oblast Duma) — October
20. Aga Buryat Autonomous Okrug (Okrug Duma) — October
21. Koryak Autonomous Okrug (Okrug Duma) — 27 October
22. Nenets Autonomous Okrug (Okrug Assembly of Deputies) — 1 December
23. Ust-Orda Autonomous Okrug (Okrug Duma) — November
24. Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug (Okrug Duma) — December
25. Chukot Autonomous Okrug (Okrug Duma) — 22 December

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26. Evenki Autonomous Okrug (Legislative Suglan) — 15 December
Note: The actual dates of some elections have yet to be finalized.

Russia: Nikitin Custody Extended; Lebed Seeks Inquiry Into Case

BR0808110396 Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 7 Aug 96 p 19

[NORSK TELEGRAMBYRA report by Erland Lyngve]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow/Oslo — Yesterday the Russian FSB security police extended the period of custody of Aleksandr Nikitin, the Bellona employee accused of espionage, by another two months.

Nikitin's defense attorney immediately lodged an appeal against this decision and the question of the extension of his term in custody will therefore be dealt with by a civil court within the next few weeks, Bellona announced.

Nikitin stands accused under paragraph 64A of the Russian criminal code, the so-called "spy paragraph." In such cases it is the public prosecutor's office itself that makes decisions on remanding suspects in custody. The decision automatically takes effect unless the defense attorney appeals to the court.

The FSB justified the extension by saying that new evidence had come to light in the case against the former submarine captain. But Nikitin's attorney, Yuriy Schmidt, has not received this justification in writing. However, he expects the document to be made available to him before the question of Nikitin's period in custody is dealt with by the court in St. Petersburg.

At the same time it is clear that Aleksandr Lebed, President Boris Yeltsin's powerful security advisor, has now become involved in the Nikitin case. Bellona has been sent a copy of a letter to the public prosecutor in Moscow in which Lebed asks the head of the national public prosecutor's office to look further into Nikitin's imprisonment and into the legal basis of the charges against him.

The letter from Lebed to the public prosecutor's office was sent in reaction to a request from several members of Russia's national assembly, the Duma.

Six months after Nikitin was arrested at his home in St. Petersburg, it is still unclear what the case against him is actually about. Schmidt, his lawyer, has only been allowed to read parts of the charge against his client. The rest is being kept secret by the FSB.

A Remarkable Affair

Only by gaining access to the full charge would Schmidt be able to form an opinion as to how great the danger is of Nikitin being found guilty and sentenced. The maximum penalty for violations of paragraph 64A is execution by firing squad.

Aleksandr Nikitin was arrested for passing on secret information on national security after being the main author of Bellona's report on nuclear safety on the Kola Peninsula.

However, the Russian Government has stressed on several occasions that it has no criticism of Bellona's activities in Russia. Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov assured his Norwegian counterpart, Bjorn Tore Godal, of this when the two men met in Moscow on 2 March, and President Yeltsin gave the same assurance when he visited Norway three weeks later.

Unless the charge is based on something other than Nikitin's work for Bellona it seems improbable that the FSB will manage to get Nikitin found guilty of espionage by a Russian court.

Russia: Security Service Registers 499 Bomb Attacks in 1995

LD0708122796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1151 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Aug 7 (Interfax) — The Federal Security Service (FSB) registered 499 crimes that involved explosives in 1995, the chief of the FSB Anti-Terrorist Center, Viktor Zorin, told INTERFAX Wednesday [7 August]. Zorin said these crimes included 12 acts that he described as terrorism.

Zorin took part in a coordinating conference of senior law enforcers in the Prosecutor General's Office in Moscow earlier Wednesday afternoon.

"This year, terrorists are more active in the places of mass concentration of people and on public transport," Zorin said. "The measures that have been taken so far to prevent such crimes do not fully protect Russians from new terrorist attacks."

Criminals stole 34 tonnes of explosives, while law enforcers found and seized only 5 tonnes in 1995 and the first half of 1996, Zorin said.

Russia: U.S. Businessman Detained, Beaten by Police in Cheboksary

LD0708144896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1429 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CHEBOKSARY, Aug 7 (Interfax-Eurasia) — U.S. businessman Michael Carrol

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has been detained by mistake and beaten by the police in the city of Cheboksary, the internal Russian republic of Chuvashia, on July 29.

A criminal case regarding the illegal detention of the U.S. businessman by the Cheboksary police was instituted on Wednesday, August 7, a source in the Chuvash Interior Ministry told Interfax-Eurasia.

Policemen of the city's Leninskiy District Law Enforcement Department broke down the door of the apartment the U.S. citizen was renting in Cheboksary and stormed it on the evening on July 29.

Carrol thought this was an attack by "Russian mobsters," deflected a pistol aimed at him and tried to escape. However, he was stopped by two policemen in mufti at the entrance into the bloc of apartments.

The U.S. businessman was handcuffed, beaten and taken to the police station where he had to spend eight hours wearing nothing but swimming trunks.

Furthermore, tear gas was sprayed at Carrol.

The Chuvash Interior Ministry told Interfax that the U.S. businessman had been detained by mistake during an operation regarding Tajik citizens trading in Cheboksary market-places.

Carrol's lawyer told reporters in Cheboksary that the U.S. businessman demanded a written apology, including an apology from the Chuvash authorities.

The U.S. ambassador in Moscow has been notified of the incident.

Military Issues

Russia: Rodionov Describes Military Reform Goals

MM0708115596 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Aug 96 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Colonel General Igor Rodionov, Russian Federation minister of defense, by Colonel Oleg Falichev; place and date not given: "We Will Restore Dignity and Respect to People in Uniform. Colonel General Igor Rodionov, Russian Federation Minister of Defense, Answers Questions From KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's Correspondent"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Falichev] Comrade Defense Minister, allow me to take this opportunity to convey to you, first of all, congratulations from the collective and readers of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on your appointment.

[Rodionov] Thank you.

[Falichev] As far as I remember, your old office at the General Staff Academy was not much worse than a minister's. But the occupant of this one bears incomparably greater responsibility for the destinies of thousands of people, for the country's security.... These were my thoughts on my way here. It is roughly seven years since you left the troops and went into science, into cadre training. It could be said that you left when there was one sociopolitical formation in the country and returned to a different one. Tell me, what is your first impression of the state of the troops? What has changed during this time?

[Rodionov] I left when the Soviet Army was in existence. There were all the groups of forces, the districts.... But now the situation is totally different. I would say that in terms of its combat ability and combat potential the Russian Army now is far from being what the Soviet Army was. This is why it is necessary to take hold of the military reform in the country as a whole and in the Armed Forces in particular. After all, what is the Army suffering from now? From the fact that military reform has been declared but is not being put into practice. On the contrary, there is an attempt to shift its whole weight onto the shoulders of the Armed Forces. Credit where credit is due: Even under these conditions the Army is trying to reform itself. But much boils down at present to its reduction, to a struggle for survival. Because of this situation in the country the Defense Council has been set up under the president's chairmanship. I am very pleased that it includes, in addition to the defense minister, my two first deputies — Chief of the General Staff Mikhail Petrovich Kolesnikov, and Andrey Afanasyevich Kokoshin.

[Falichev] How hard did you find it, Igor Nikolayevich, to decide to accept your new post? Even given the most favorable combination of circumstances it will be very hard to carry this load which you have, if you will pardon me for saying so, hoisted onto your own back. Hardly anyone would take the risk now of looking optimistically into the immediate future, mindful of the difficult economic situation. What was the main thing that determined your choice?

[Rodionov] First, an awareness of the confidence of President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin and the political leadership. Second, a sense of pain over Russia's destiny and its future. Thank God, I have my health, energy, and, most importantly, faith that, by uniting the best forces in the country and the Army, it will be possible to create Armed Forces that are worthy of Russia; that will not be a burden on the country or a bugaboo to the world community; but that, at the same time, will be combat-capable, mobile, and loved and respected by the people.

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I am sure that we will master the situation in this respect, since we have what is most important — the human potential.

[Falichev] Incidentally, about that potential or, as people used to say, the human factor. What could you say about the officers' mood following your tour of high commands and staffs?

[Rodionov] On the whole I am very satisfied. I had assumed that the overall psychological morale would be somewhat lower than it is. But no, it is actually higher. This gives me additional strength and confidence that we can resolve the most complex tasks with such officer personnel. People everywhere listened to me with attention. I felt their support. There is no confusion or bitterness in the ranks. Practically everyone perceives with understanding the complex problems that have now befallen us.

[Falichev] You mentioned military reform. To be brief, what do you understand by the reform of the Armed Forces as such?

[Rodionov] Most regrettably, a lot of people, including certain high-ranking leaders, muddle up two quite independent concepts: military reform and reform of the Armed Forces. Any reform, including military reform, must have the aim of improving the state of affairs in a particular sphere of activity. Military reform relates to in the sphere of the state's defense, military policy, and military building as a whole. But reform of the Armed Forces, as a constituent part of military reform, happens in the sphere of creating and improving the Army, Navy, and other military formations.

Much of what has to be done in this respect goes beyond the Defense Ministry's competence and is the prerogative of the president, the legislature, and the executive. They are the agencies able to reorganize the system of preparing the country to repulse possible aggression, making use here of the entire existing potential....

[Falichev] The war in Chechnya is a separate topic. It is not that easy to cut this "Gordian knot," figuratively speaking. What do you see as the solution to this very complex problem?

[Rodionov] The situation in Chechnya should be viewed in the general context of the economic and sociopolitical situation in Russia. Of course, the bloody armed conflict in that region is not a war against an aggressor and so cannot serve as a reason to revise the basic conceptual tenets of military building and the state's military policy. But the Chechen conflagration, which we have been unable to extinguish for over 18 months, is a vivid example of a direct threat to the Russian Federation's security. Just think, even today the bandit formations number as many as 70 groups, each with 15-25 people. Along with scattered gunmen and armed criminals that means 3,000-3,500 people.

The opposition is continuing to receive economic, political, and military aid from the near and far abroad. The gunmen are using the truce to restore their formations' combat ability and to carry out engineering reinforcements in the occupied districts.

It was the Chechnya events that made us pay attention to the true state of affairs in the Armed Forces and to the power ministries' actual readiness to fulfill the tasks entrusted to them. They have laid bare many imperfections in our military organization and convincingly shown that the many "reforming" experiments on the old Army and the system of managing the country's defense have not strengthened its military security, to put it mildly.

I am convinced that we must now utilize everything, even the smallest opportunities, to resolve as quickly as possible this dramatic problem in the south of Russia. Of course, it is not yet possible to get away from purely military, strong-arm methods. But such actions must be exclusively of a surgical nature. At the same time this is a job not for the Army but for special troops, particularly those of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The Army must help to resolve these tasks by being present. Therefore we will continue the planned withdrawal of our military units, with the exception of those that will be stationed permanently on the territory of the Chechen Republic. Through the newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA I express sincere words of gratitude to the enlisted men, NCO's, and officers who have shouldered the entire weight of this war.

[Falichev] It is no secret that Russian soldiers and officers have always been noted for lofty patriotism and greatness of spirit. But you will probably agree, Igor Nikolayevich, that the state must not endlessly exploit this sacred feeling. Because even metal gets fatigue....

[Rodionov] I agree with you. The officer corps in Russia has at all times been a kind of gold reserve of the nation and the state. This is how it has been, is, and must always be. Therefore the military professional irreproachably fulfilling his military duty must be constantly at the center of society's attention. We all feel that there has been a change of attitude to servicemen and the Army in recent years. It has not been a change for the better, I fear. The prestige of service is falling, and the romantic aura of military work is dwindling. Last year, for example, of the total number of officers transferred to the

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reserve, 80 percent went early, including 15,500 below the age of 30. Draw your own conclusions.

[Falichev] Sadly, even a naive romantic knows today that without financial and material support even the most immediate solutions to urgent problems can remain merely words on paper. In your view, is there light at the end of the tunnel?

[Rodionov] If I had not seen light at the end of the tunnel, as you put it, I would not have consented to assume the responsibilities of the leader of the military department. Although the situation really is very strained. Both the overall unfavorable economic situation in the country at present and the unrealistic nature of the military budget are telling. There are huge problems with the provision of pay, food, and clothing. Unfortunately, this has been a growing trend in recent years. We can see a discrepancy between the requirements of the military potential and the state's potential. Both these factors are objective. The task is to bring them closer together without infringing anyone's interests. I have already stated as much repeatedly, but I consider it possible to repeat: A modern, well equipped and trained army does not come cheap.

[Falichev] If I might try to set a timeframe to what you are thinking of doing: How long are you going to give yourself to achieve it?

[Rodionov] That is a difficult question.... In any event we have to hurry. It seems to me that the country must now move into a mode of economizing strictly on energies and resources, to ensure that the economy works. Then the Army will also feel the effects.

[Falichev] As for economizing in respect of the Armed Forces.... Is its numerical strength at an optimum level at the moment?

[Rodionov] At the moment it is sufficient.

[Falichev] But is the country capable, in your view, of maintaining an army of 1.5 million men?

[Rodionov] I fear that it is not. But we have yet to look into this, and it is one of the main tasks for the Defense Council. Yes the military-political situation now makes it possible to reduce the Armed Forces, but this cannot be done ad infinitum. Although the things that are going on as regards its funding are simply intolerable and make you depressed. Incidentally, I have even said to the president: Dear Boris Nikolayevich, unless we change the situation, as defense minister I will simply find myself held hostage by circumstances. After all, I am already receiving hundreds of letters and wire messages about the impoverished position of officers' families in the garrisons.

[Falichev] Excuse me, but why are you so sure that people will necessarily listen to you, if they did not always pay attention to your predecessor?

[Rodionov] This problem was not so acute under Grachev. It has been exacerbated to the limit in recent months. It is important to understand this.

[Falichev] Igor Nikolayevich, you are pretty well known among the troops as a major military leader and expert. However, our readers are interested not only in your professional qualities but also your human qualities. Would you mind telling us something about your family and your interests?

[Rodionov] What I valued most in my previous post was time and a guaranteed day off. Time to improve myself and work with the teaching staff.... Now I do not have that. I suspect that my dacha garden will fall into a state of neglect, and that weeds will grow all over the place: I have no time for gardening now. However, those at home — my wife and (smiles) Fedor the cat are understanding about this. My son is grown up and independent. I have relatives throughout the former Union: My mother and sister are in Ukraine, my father, a front-line fighter, is on trans-Carpathian soil....

[Falichev] I have heard that you are a great connoisseur of music.

[Rodionov] Yes, traditional jazz. At one time I was learning the accordion at music school. I worshipped it. Can you imagine, one fine day we were forbidden to play it on the grounds that it was a Western instrument. At first I was really upset about this. It was the height of the Cold War and ideological imbecility. Nevertheless we did not lose heart, and we managed to find places where we could continue with our favorite pursuits.

[Falichev] A last, maybe slightly uncomfortable question, Igor Nikolayevich. It is dictated once again by our difficult times, by the precipitous changes which the country is going through. What do you think we have today on which to base high morale and moral ideals in the officers and men of our Army — which, as you know, has remained outside privatization?

[Rodionov] This question is up for discussion right now. But I will answer it. It seems to me that high morale and fortitude are characteristic of our Army and will never run out if every enlisted man, NCO, and officer realizes and perceives the fact that he is needed by the state. If he feels he is participating in society's work, and perceives the value of military work. These things make any man in uniform gain in self-confidence and feel ready to carry out great exploits.

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But when an officer can see that he will earn immeasurably more if he works in the security department of some private firm or store than in "state service," that will make him depressed. And if he does not have enough money to feed his family, then his military work no longer has any point. This attitude can only generate a feeling of hopelessness. And that is the most terrible aspect. I will say one thing: It is to the state's own detriment to humiliate military men in this way. If a country calls on a citizen to protect its interests and concludes a contract with him, it should guarantee his full social protection. At the moment this is not happening. I have therefore personally categorized the tasks of solving the social problems of servicemen and their families as top priorities.

[Falichev] What would you like to wish these people? What can they expect? What should they prepare themselves for?

[Rodionov] I would like to thank everyone who is serving Russia with faith and truth for their endurance and courage. We must not lose heart, panic, or give up, no matter what. The Army and Navy have always been pillars of the fatherland. And they will not let Russia down even in our difficult times. I believe in the best scenario: that one day in our country there will be real competition even for the position of an enlisted man. To achieve this I need sincere support and assistance from those who want to bring back prosperity to Russia, strength to the Army, and dignity and respect to the man in uniform.

Russia: Rodionov 'Not Leading Operations in Chechnya'

LD0808105896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1039 GMT 8 Aug 96

["Russian Defense Minister Not Leading Operations in Chechnya" — INTERFAX headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Aug 8 (Interfax) — Russia's Defense Ministry has refuted mass media reports stating that Col. Gen. Igor Rodionov, head of the military department, will command the operation to repulse the fighters' attack against Groznyy.

"Such statements do not correspond to the reality," a representative of the Defense Ministry close to Rodionov told Interfax Thursday.

"The army units in Chechnya are acting in line with the plan confirmed by President Boris Yeltsin and are continuing their withdrawal from the republic," he said.

"The major burden on restoration of the constitutional order in Chechnya will be laid on Russia's interior forces and the republic's law enforcement bodies," the military said.

At the same time he recognized that due to a sharp worsening of the situation in Groznyy the army units are forced to closely interact with the detachments of the interior forces. For example, two motor rifle battalions assigned to the North Caucasian military district were introduced in Groznyy to render assistance in repulsing the rebels' attack in line with the decision of the command of the federal forces in Chechnya.

Responding to Interfax, the source said that a delay with introduction of Defense Ministry units in the Chechen capital is explained by the hope that the interior forces and employees of Chechnya's law enforcement bodies will independently liquidate the rebels.

"There were several thousands of interior forces servicemen in the Chechen capital during the attack of the separatists," he said.

Speaking about the situation in Groznyy, representative of the Defense Ministry said that the fighters are trying to disperse throughout the city in order to leave it in small groups at twilight.

Federal Assembly

Russia: Lobov Addresses Federation Council on Economic Situation

LD0808094296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0904 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Aug 8 (INTERFAX) — The total debt on wages totalled 29.9 trillion rubles as of late June, Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Lobov told members of the Federation Council Thursday. Lobov addressed the upper chamber of parliament in place of Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

A total of 32 percent of budget expenditures, against 15 percent in line with the law on the budget, were forwarded to finance wages and debts on wages, he said. Monthly growth of overdue debt by industry, agriculture, transport and construction enterprises amounted to 8 percent against 5 percent in the fourth quarter of last year.

While characterizing the economic situation in Russia, Lobov said that "a gradual reduction of inflation rate and a positive foreign trade balance are the most remarkable factors."

On the whole consumer prices grew by 15.5 percent over the first half a year, he said. The monthly growth

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of money supply totalled 3.85 percent compared with 7 percent in 1995.

The situation on the currency market is under control, he said. The currency reserves of the Central Bank of Russia have been preserved at the level of $13 billion.

At the same time the volume of industrial production, investments and growth of nonpayments continued to fall. The situation with tax collection and execution of the budget has worsened, he said.

The volume of the GDP over the first half of this year has diminished against the same period last year by 5 percent, and industrial production has fallen by 4 percent.

Lobov predicts difficulties with the harvest due to bad preparation of agricultural equipment.

The share of unprofitable enterprises has increased, he said. In particular, they amount to 53 percent in nonferrous metallurgy, 51 percent in the coal industry, 47 percent in the textiles industry, 45 percent in construction materials and 61 percent in transport.

Arrears to the budget, he said, have reached 60 trillion rubles. The expenditures for industry and construction have been financed by 61 percent, 10.8 trillion rubles.

Russia: Upper House Displeased With Lobov's Economic Report

LD0808102896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0958 GMT 8 Aug 96

[By Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, August 8 (ITAR-TASS) — The Federation Council upper house of parliament today expressed dissatisfaction with First Vice-Premier Oleg Lobov's report about the economic situation in Russia which contained ample dry statistics and no information about the government's plans for pulling the national economy out of the crisis.

Although the Federation Council agreed to "take note" of Lobov's report and replies to questions in the house for the record, remarks from the floor were much more caustic. President of North Ossetia Akhsarbek Galazov, for example, described the whole action as "completely ineffectual."

Federation Council chairman Yegor Stroyev said the lawmakers' dissatisfaction with the report and its discussion stemmed from their awareness that the problem "cannot end with a heated or lukewarm discussion in the Federation Council, it gives rise to discontent and strikes outside the house," and the Federation Council members will be hard put when, upon return home, they are required to explain to people how things actually stand with the payment of wages and pensions and why one or another social bill was promulgated into law or turned down by them in parliament.

In this context, Stroyev also urged the house committees for the budget, economic reform, regional policy, and security to draw up a joint paper containing not only criticism but also proposals for setting things straight in the regions. He said the house owed it to the regions it represented.

As his remarks appeared to add fuel to the fire, Stroyev sought to appease the house by telling its members that Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin had promised to report to the Federation Council on the government's programme of action directly after the State Duma approved his candidature for Prime Minister in the new government to be formed after the presidential inauguration on Friday, August 9.

The State Duma lower house is expected to consider the nomination on Saturday, August 10.

Russia: Federation Council Overrides Veto on Budget Law

LD0708152296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1500 GMT 7 Aug 96

[By Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, August 7 (ITAR-TASS) — The Federation Council on Wednesday endorsed the law on budgetary classification overriding the presidential veto after the State Duma.

As many as 121 people out of the 140 present voted in favour of the law.

The first version of the law was passed by the State Duma and the Federation Council late last year and was rejected by the president on December 31. After the law had been reworked by the coordinating committee both chambers of the federal assembly endorsed the new version of the law, but President Yeltsin rejected it again on July 11, believing that the parliament had not taken into account all his remarks, including those in regard of taxation.

Anatoliy Sliva, presidential representative of the Federation Council, noted this today. He admitted that there is a need for budget classification but it should be of good quality. Meanwhile four fifths of the present law refer to departmental classification.

However, Mikhail Zadornov, the chairman of the Duma Budget Committee, addressing the Federation Council today, succeeded in convincing members of the upper

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house that all the main wishes of the executive authorities had been taken into consideration. He recalled that the draft law had been tabled by the government. Members of the Federation Council believe the law decides the main task of tightening control on the spending of budgetary funds.

Russia: Federation Council Amends Budget To Help Textile Industry

LD0708164096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1558 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Aug 7 (INTERFAX) — The Russian Federation Council, the upper house of parliament, approved amendments to the 1996 budget that had been passed by the State Duma, the lower house, last July and appropriated an additional 500 billion rubles to support the light and textile industries.

The budget earmarked 1.5 trillion rubles for the purchases of raw materials for the textile and light industries.

Under the amendments, some of the value-added tax which they are supposed to pay will be added to the working capital of light and textile industry factories.

The Federation Council Economic Policy Committee says that these industries are in dire economic straits, with the output of very important products having fallen by 70 to 90 percent. Once profit-making factories which used to provide nearly 25 percent of Soviet budget revenue are now contributing a mere 2 percent. Furthermore, they face tough competition because imported goods have taken up 70 percent of the market. Latent unemployment is growing with one half of the personnel being likely to lose their jobs.

Russia: Federation Council Endorses Amendments to Tariff Law

LD0708125796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1223 GMT 7 Aug 96

[By Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, August 7 (ITAR-TASS) — Two kinds of privileges in the payment of import custom duties were endorsed by the Federation Council today. It endorsed amendments to the law on custom tariffs. Equipment, including machinery, as well as materials imported into Russia on credits granted by foreign states and international organisations under agreements with Russia are exempt from the tax, first of all. Second, the tax does not apply to the import of equipment and sets that have no analogues in Russia. Members of the Federation Council said that amendments to the law help solve the situation when a number of enterprises, because of funds shortages, proved unable to pay import tax duties on equipment needed for the development of production. This equipment was bought on foreign credits.

Russia: Federation Council Approves Protectionist Law

LD0708135196 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1315 GMT 7 Aug 96

[By Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, August 7 (ITAR-TASS) — The Federation Council upper house of Russian parliament today approved a bill "Concerning measures to protect the economic interests of the Russian Federation in the course of foreign trade in goods."

The bill aims to protect the national economy against foreign competition which violates international standards, ensure conditions for Russia's effective integration in the world economy, maintain the country's trade balance by regulating imports, and meet domestic market demand for goods in short supply.

According to sources in the house economic policy committee, the promulgation of the new law was made necessary by "the negative situation of the Russian industry in the field of foreign trade, which finds expression in the prevalence of raw materials and energy resources in the country's export and the growing influx of foreign goods on the domestic market, which leads to the curtailment of domestic production."

The law provides for the government use of protectionist measures, including import quotas and special customs duties to be levied on imports where the share of imported goods increases on terms and conditions which can do harm to the national industry.

Russia: Federation Council To Discuss Yeltsin's Message on Security

LD0708213696 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2100 GMT 7 Aug 96

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 8 Aug (ITAR-TASS) — At its final sitting before the parliamentary recess, the Federation Council intends to discuss the Russian president's message to the Federal Assembly on national security and the associated tasks facing parliament's upper chamber. On 8 August the members of the

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chamber will continue to examine the laws passed on to them by the State Duma. The fiercest debate may be occasioned by the laws on raising minimum pensions and wages, for which money has not been allocated in the budget.

The agenda also contains a message to the government over the adoption of the government's decision "On the procedure for the conveyance across the customs boundary of goods not intended for production or any commercial activity." The reference here is to the so-called "shuttle traders," in defense of whom Moscow's mayor Yuriy Luzhkov intends to speak. An ITAR-TASS correspondent has found out that he has quite a few allies, including Vladimir Yakovlev, the governor of St. Petersburg.

Russia: Federation Council Holds Roundtable on Border Regions

MK0708120296 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Aug 96 p 2

[Report by Sergey Mulin: "Border Areas Demand Replenishment From Center"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The economic and legal status of Russian Federation border territories was up for discussion at a "roundtable" in the Federation Council yesterday. Specialists from various agencies ranging from the State Tax Service to the Foreign Ministry brainstormed a draft concept of a special federal law affecting the interests of 43 of the 89 Federation components. Precisely this number of Russia's regions were obliged to absorb, after the USSR's disintegration, the costs of, in particular, the deployment there of the most important [military] units, border troops subunits, and customs houses. On the one hand, in the case of a number of traditionally depression-hit oblasts such as Pskov Oblast, the creation of additional jobs proved beneficial — unemployment ended and there are even vacancies for specialists. On the other hand, since the new structures are subordinate to federal authorities, local budgets are not getting any monetary compensation in the form of taxes, which are sent to Moscow where these structures are registered. The governors of Leningrad and Pskov Oblasts, Aleksandr Belyakov and Vladimir Tumanov, insist that local bodies of power should receive compensation for these costs. According to the regional leaders, the Foreign Ministry and the State Customs Union have taken a constructive stance, whereas the Finance Ministry and the State Tax Service have taken a frankly negative stance. At the same time, all recognize that a law is necessary.

Russia: Federation Council Passes Law on Special Federal Programs

LD0708214396 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1420 GMT 7 Aug 96

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 7 Aug (ITAR-TASS) — Several dozen programs on developing the social, medical, educational, ecological, law-enforcement, production, and other spheres are contained in the law "On the list of special federal programs and the departmental structure of expenditure in the 1996 federal budget," which was approved by the Federation Council on 7 August. The first section of the list alone, which includes so-called urgent issues, requires 37,005.42 billion rubles from the federal budget for the current year.

It contains a broad range of child programs, including children of the north, children of Chernobyl, orphaned children, and child nutrition; programs on medical drugs, safe motherhood, education, and cultural preservation; an anti-AIDS program; a migration program, and measures to promote the development of small ethnic groups; transfer Russia to an international statistics system; protect forestry, protect Lake Baykal, and provide protection against floods and radioactive waste; and others. In urging that the law be approved, the Federation Council's budget committee drew attention to the fact that the list of special programs should be endorsed at the same time that the law on the budget is adopted.

Regional Affairs

Russia: Basayev Claims Groznyy 'Fully Under His Control'

LD0808115796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1134 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SOUTH CHECHNYA, Aug 8 (Interfax) — Field commander Shamil Basayev said on Thursday that the second phase of the rebel special operation in Groznyy is concluded.

Having spoken with the central command post of Chechen separatists, he declared that he is "ready for negotiations and is willing to receive a Russian and a Chechen delegation in Groznyy, since he can ensure their security in full," a spokesman for the separatist headquarters told an Interfax correspondent.

The second phase of the Zero Option operation aims "to set up commandant's offices in city districts and appoint commandants," the spokesman said.

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Basayev also claimed that Groznyy is fully under his control.

In the meantime separatist government sources told Interfax that at its Wednesday's session "the parliament of Ichkeria" urged Boris Yeltsin and Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev to stop military actions.

At the same time separatist parliament members insisted that "Russia alone is to blame" for the violation of the peace agreements reached in Moscow and Nazran.

Russia: Groznyy Government House 'Still Holding Out'

MM0708152096 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Aug 96 pp 1-2

[Report by Valeriy Yakov: "'We Are Still Holding Out,' Sergeant Timofeyev Told IZVESTIYA by Telephone From Groznyy's Government House, Which Is Encircled by Gunmen"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 7 August, from morning on, the detachments of gunmen who have entered Groznyy and are dictating the conditions of the bloody game there resumed their assault on government buildings in the city center. The tally of losses among the federal troops and the Chechen police has already reached double figures, and the number of wounded is in the hundreds. The gunmen's detachments are also suffering losses. Only the civilians are mentioned by neither side; as before, nobody in this war is counting losses among them.

On Wednesday morning we managed to contact Chechen Republic Prosecutor Vakhid Abubakarov by cell phone. According to him, the level of activity of the detachments of gunmen, who entered the city unhindered, has not declined. They are still firing on government buildings and fortified checkpoints in the city center.

For the second successive day federal troops are using aviation to inflict "pinpoint strikes" on the Dudayevites' firing positions, although it is quite obvious that identifying these positions in the built-up areas of the city from the air is not a very realistic task — still less destroying them. It is, however, absolutely clear that those who are suffering most as a result of these air strikes are the civilians who did not have time to leave the city and were forced to take refuge in the basements of their own apartment blocks, if they have basements. Nobody is counting the dead among them today, but unfortunately that has now become an evil tradition in the Chechen war.

Naturally, for the federal aviation there is no difference between peaceful villages and city districts, and the president's instruction not to use aviation in population centers is being ignored with staggering carelessness. The gunmen are also not taking the trouble to be selective and are shooting at any living thing that appears on the city streets at this time. As a result, once again, as in January 1995, you can see unarmed people lying dead on the sidewalks, people who had the bad luck to find themselves at the center of events. Among those lying dead in the city streets, according to Abubakarov, there are the bodies of mercenaries in their characteristic dress, with green bandages. Of course, it is not possible to count them because of the continuing fighting.

The republic prosecutor's office, without waiting for the Dudayevites' operation to end, has already instituted criminal proceedings under Articles 77 and 102 of the Criminal Code and authorized the arrest of all those taking part in the assault. The only thing that is not clear is who will carry out the arrests, if the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Federal Security Service buildings are blockaded by gunmen and employees of the law enforcement agencies in the city are forced to defend themselves.

But what is provoking the greatest indignation among the people of Groznyy today, according to the republic prosecutor, is the position of the Moscow authorities, which are playing double games with the Dudayevites. On the one hand they are receiving them in the Kremlin, beginning the talks process, and thus treating them as partners. On the other, they are calling them bandits, striking at the mountain villages, pursuing the leaders.... This duality is causing confusion in the minds of Chechens who are not involved in the hostilities, nor is it adding to the confidence of local employees of the law enforcement agencies, who are aware that at any moment they might be betrayed by the federal side.

The fact of such treason is obvious from the current events. At about midday 7 August I managed to get through to Colonel Lema Magomadov, chief of the Chechnya GAI [State Motor Vehicle Inspectorate], on the phone. He said the gunmen have blockaded the Zavodskoy and Lineynyy police departments. The defenders' ammunition is running out, they are constantly radioing for assistance, but the federal troops are in no hurry to enter the city. In fact, according to Magomadov, on the eve of the assault the federal forces withdrew from Groznyy the armored equipment which had hitherto been tirelessly patrolling the streets. The republic GAI building itself, where my interlocutor is, has not yet been attacked by the gunmen, but all the police staffers have taken up an all-around defense and are prepared to stand firm to the last. True, they have only about two

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days' worth of ammunition, and there does not seem to be much prospect of real assistance.

The federal troops' leadership is probably listening not to their radio appeals, but to the voice of the imperturbable head of the republic, Doku Zavgayev, and continuing to believe his reassuring words. Doku Gapurovich's latest statement is totally beyond the bounds of common sense. On 7 August he gave an assurance, live on Ekho Moskvy radio, that "there have been no incidents in the republic in the past 24 hours, everything is calm." And the situation in Groznyy, he says, is fully under control, and only insignificant groups of gunmen are staging ambushes in certain districts. It is simply impossible to comment on these words, because of their obvious absurdity. At a time when Groznyy has been virtually taken by the Dudayevites, the head of the republic is sitting it out behind the strong backs of Russian soldiers at the military base at Khankal — to where, according to news agency reports, the entire government has also relocated — and trying to convince the public that he is still in control of something. And he pays generously for these assurances of his, with the lives of peaceful inhabitants of Groznyy and the lives of soldiers.

According to preliminary figures — and we are not very likely ever to get accurate figures — in two days of fighting the federal forces, together with local subunits, have already lost more than 50 people killed and some 200 wounded. The plan of the Dudayevites' main staff has to all appearances been a patent success — they have given the Russian president the worst possible inauguration present and demonstrated graphically to the whole world who really dictates the terms in Chechnya and with whom an agreement on the cessation of hostilities should be reached. In this connection Stepashin's ultimatums are risible at best, and his threats to commence talks with other forces do not stand up to criticism. Unless you count Doku Zavgayev as "other forces" and relocate the talks with him to Moscow's Rublevka, where the head of Chechnya mostly lives.

At 1345 I called the deserted press center at Groznyy's Government House. After the phone had been ringing for a long time someone picked it up, and a man's broken voice answered: "Who's there? Sergeant Timofeyev. First name? Andrey. Yes, we're totally surrounded. About 30 gunmen — 50 meters away. It's very noisy because there are helicopters dropping bombs. No, I don't think they'll bomb us, we're on their side. We have no dead yet. How long can we hold out? A long time. There should be enough ammunition. But the guys are saying that they plan to take Government House by 9 August, for Yeltsin's big day. We'll try to hold out. It's started again, I've got to go. Are you really calling from Moscow? Please call again if you can. In about 30 minutes."

Russia: Federal Forces Control Administrative Buildings in Groznyy

LD0808054596 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0420 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The press secretary of the Commission for a Settlement in the republic has stated that the federal forces have managed to take control of all the administrative buildings in the center of town. A convoy of military equipment of the federal forces, which arrived yesterday evening, blocked access to the buildings of the government, Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Federal Security Service of Chechnya, which are next to one another. There are several armored personnel carriers and tanks in the convoy.

However, an ITAR-TASS correspondent reported at 0500 this morning that at that time journalists could not leave the hotel, which is in the center of Groznyy and has been blockaded by armed fighters. True, the correspondent said that the servicemen who are defending the hotel are rebuffing the rebels' attacks.

The same ITAR-TASS correspondent also reported that last night in the center of Groznyy the armored equipment was used to make warning strikes on locations where the armed fighters are likely to be amassing.

On the outskirts of the town, the federal forces' subunits in Khankala continued to be fired upon. The Russian military returned fire.

We still do not have any information on the losses overnight. Yesterday various reports came in. To all appearances, the closest to the actual figures were those of NTV, which yesterday evening mentioned the figure of approximately 50 casualties on the federal side in two days of fighting.

Russia: Groznyy Fighting Ends in Center, Moves to Outskirts

LD0808084196 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Our correspondent Vladimir Trushkovskiy reports on the latest events in Groznyy.

[Trushkovskiy] Fierce fighting between detachments of gunmen and subunits of federal forces has just ended near the government buildings in central Groznyy. Tank guns, grenade-launchers and heavy machine-guns were used in the fighting. The shooting in the center has died down, and the fighting has moved to the outskirts. It is known that four convoys of the federal forces'

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armored hardware are now moving toward the town from different directions. The convoys' advance is being hampered by mines and shooting by the gunmen.

Vladimir Trushkovskiy for Radio Russia from Groznyy.

Russia: Opposition Says 3,000 Fighters in Groznyy; 300 Russians Killed

LD0808063396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0625 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SOUTH CHECHNYA, Aug 8 (Interfax) — Up to 500 fresh Chechen forces entered Groznyy Wednesday night, the command of the Chechen armed opposition told Interfax.

As a result, "3,000 fighters are engaged in the special operation in the Chechen capital."

Up to 300 Russian federal servicemen have been killed since August 6 in Chechnya, a spokesman for the opposition command said. The spokesman made no mention of opposition losses.

Chechen fighters destroyed 44 federal armored vehicles, downed nine federal helicopters and captured eight armored vehicles, more than 300 handguns and much ammunition in Groznyy, he said.

According to the same spokesman, the Chechen opposition is controlling developments in downtown Groznyy. Hard as it tries, federal armor cannot reach the offices of Chechnya's Moscow-backed government.

Russia: Rebel Spokesman Claims 700-1,000 Federal Soldiers Lost

LD0808100096 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0800 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] After two days of fighting in Groznyy, federal forces have lost from 700 to 1,000 people, Movladi Udugov, press minister in the opposition government, told our radio station today. The Federal command, however, puts its losses at tens, not hundreds, of people.

Russia: Fighting in Groznyy Reported; Newsmen Cornered

LD0808112396 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Fierce fighting continued today in the center of Groznyy between the fighter units and units of the federal forces. Journalists were under fire all night, this morning, and today in Groznyy. They include our correspondent, Vladimir Trushkovskiy:

[Trushkovskiy] The situation in Groznyy during the night and up to the present moment has developed as follows. The situation in the center of the city, where the fighters made an attempt to seize the government building, remains tense. This assault was repulsed.

Members of the duty police at the railway station have maintained their defense of the station for almost ten hours. Detachments of the patrol and guard service were sent in to the relieve them and this attack was also beaten off. Seventy building workers brought in for restoration work in Chechnya are sheltering in the basement of the station's police section.

There was fighting this morning around the police station in Zavodskoy District. In Staropromyslovskiy District, the fighters tried to set fire to an administrative building but the fire was put out.

At the present time, the fighters have concentrated their forces in the post office building and in the area around the headquarters of the mayor of Groznyy. Combat and assault operations in the center of the city have hardly seen a lull in the first half of today. But the heaviest fighting started at 1100 [0700 GMT] and continues to the present time.

Skirmishes continue using aircraft, helicopters, tank guns, heavy machine guns, mortars, and grenade launchers. The armored column which reached Groznyy yesterday evening is taking quite an active part in the fighting. We have also heard that there are several more columns at the approaches to the center of the city. But their advance is made difficult by minefields on the roads and firing by the separatists who are well entrenched in the buildings and ruins.

We have heard nothing as yet from either side about casualties. There are virtually no figures whatsoever. The journalists have learned that [Chechen separatist spokesman] Movladi Udugov phoned Radio Russia and proposed an evacuation of the journalists and service personnel from the hotel building. While realizing just how difficult their position is, the journalists decided however that any such action would have to be carried out in the presence of the head of the OSCE mission, Tim Guldimann. There is no other way out for us.

Russia: Interior Troops Spokesman Updates Situation in Chechnya

LD0808082496 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Fighting broke out in Groznyy again this morning. This is what Vasiliy Panchenkov, an official of the Interior Troops press bureau, reports about the situation in the Chechen capital and other regions of the republic:

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[Panchenkov] There is an acute shortage of ammunition among the rebel detachments at this moment. Some field commanders have already switched to the tactic of setting up ambushes. The rebels are breaking into apartments in the upper stories of high-rise blocks, chasing out the owners and, using people's property, are creating carnage by holding crossroads on the city's streets under fire.

Snipers are becoming more active. It is not being discounted that in the next few hours, the rebels, having failed to achieve their aims in the city center, will try to occupy any important buildings in another area.

The situation in Argun is still complex. Here, talks between the commander of the federal troop units and the administration and local rebels have eased the situation somewhat. In Gudermes, the situation is under control. The local authorities are trying to prevent the rebels from entering the town.

In the western part of the Chechen Republic, it is still calm. According to information from the federal command, some rebels from Urus-Martanovskiy and Achkhoy-Martanovskiy districts are currently in Groznyy.

In the east of the republic, some of the so-called irreconcilable opposition do not relent in their attempts to shell federal troops, trying to provoke them into retaliation and cause dissatisfaction among the local population.

Russia: Chechnya's Zavgayev Interviewed on Groznyy Situation

LD0708191596 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 7 Aug 96

[Interview by satellite with Doku Zavgayev, head of the Chechen republic, by anchorman Vladislav Flyarkovskiy, on 7 August; from the "Vesti" newscast — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Flyarkovskiy] Thank you for agreeing to talk to us. Could you tell us why a large group of the armed opposition managed to get into Groznyy yesterday? Was it because of the insufficient presence of federal forces?

[Zavgayev] For several months now within the framework of the inter-Chechen dialogue we have been holding talks with all members of the illegal armed formations. In accordance with the president's decree on rights and guarantees for them, we exempt from responsibility all those who cease their illegal activities. Some have taken advantage of this opportunity and managed to infiltrate the town of Groznyy. The republic's prosecutor has instituted criminal proceedings, considering that this act of terrorism is not the first one and that there is enough evidence for a criminal case to be opened. Warrants have been issued for the arrest of Yandarbiyev, Udugov, and Maskhadov, as organizers of this assault. The situation is completely under control.

On the territory of the republic and [word indistinct] the town of Groznyy the general situation is mainly being controlled by our local authorities and the interior ministry bodies. In Groznyy too, it was mainly the interior bodies of the Chechen republic that were involved in the clashes. Naturally, federal forces are assisting them wherever their help and support are needed.

[Flyarkovskiy] What about the actions of the armed opposition over the past 24 hours? Do you think these were tactical battles? Or do you think they were part of a certain strategic plan.

[Zavgayev] Vladislav, I think opposition is the wrong word. What I mean by opposition is political opposition. In this case we are dealing with criminals and bandits who are plundering apartments, warehouses and banks. That is far from politics.

[Flyarkovskiy] So, they have no strategy.

[Zavgayev] That is far from politics or human rights issues.

[Flyarkovskiy] What do you personally need as the head of the republic, what mechanisms or tools do you need to institute peace in Chechnya?

[Zavgayev] We are relying on the public opinion and people's sentiments. People are tired of the last five years of atrocities. People want to live normally here. This is what we want and these are the sentiments of people in the republic.

Russia: Chechen Rebels Order Arrest of Zavgayev, Other Leaders

LD0808082396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0753 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SOUTHERN CHECHNYA, Aug 8 (Interfax) — The prosecutor's office of Chechnya's self-proclaimed Republic of Ichkeria have ordered the arrest of some members of Chechnya's Moscow-backed government. It did so on orders from the separatist leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, a source in the separatist leadership told Interfax.

Those who are to be arrested include the head of the republic Doku Zavgayev, Prime Minister Nikolay Koshman, Deputy Prime Minister Badrudi Dzhamalkhanov, Parliament Speaker Amin Osmayev,

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Prosecutor General Vakhid Abubakarov, former Interior Minister Khamid Inalov and former Chechen envoy to Moscow Isa Alleroyev.

According to the decree, they are charged with "having organized massacres of civilians and provoked military actions in Chechnya."

Russia: Chechen Representative in Moscow Comments on Groznyy Events

LD0708224996 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2030 GMT 7 Aug 96

[Video report by correspondent A. Dubnov, including recorded remarks by Adlan Magomadov, Chechnya's deputy permanent representative in Moscow; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Dubnov] The very latest information about events and the state of affairs in the republic has come together at the permanent mission of the government of the Chechen Republic attached to the president of the Russian Federation. In exclusive remarks to "Vesti," Adlan Magomadov, deputy permanent representative, said that the number of militants storming Groznyy, which has been put at 200 by some mass media, has been greatly underestimated.

[Magomadov] Some 2,000 — yes, 2,000 — militants have entered the town. We have precise eyewitness reports that the town, its apartments, and the state organizations are being thoroughly looted by the militants.

[Dubnov] Adlan Magomadov read out the decision of the Chechen Public Procurator's Office on the arrest of Yandarbiyev, Maskhadov, Udugov, and Gelanov. They are being charged with serious crimes.

[Magomadov] They have killed civilians, including women and children. They have robbed apartments and carried out attacks on roadblocks and banks. Well, it is already obvious that these people have come here with the aim of enriching themselves by looting storehouses and banks.

[Dubnov] Chechnya's deputy permanent representative denied reports that Chechen militiamen with their standard-issue weapons had gone over to the separatists. According to Adlan Magomadov, the federal forces must have known about the combat operations being prepared.

In connection with the latest events in Chechnya the role of many politicians connected with the negotiating process, for instance, Ruslan Khasbulatov, is being called into question. Adlan Magomadov believes that it is necessary to look for authoritative persons to whom both militants and the civilian population would pay heed.

Russia: Chechen Pro-Moscow, Opposition Figures View Situation

LD0708195296 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1800 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] We begin our news with reports from Chechnya. Interfax has reported that at around 2000 today, a convoy of armored vehicles of the federal troops managed to reach the center of Groznyy. An agency correspondent said that all administrative buildings in the town are now under the control of the federal forces. According to information available at 2000, the fiercest fighting is taking place in the north of the Chechen capital. Power supply to the town has been cut and the cellular mobile phone communications are out of order. Five major fires are visible by helicopter. They are in the area of Severnyy Airport and the village of Khankala, where the leadership of Chechnya and the command of the federal forces are situated. No major combat actions are taking place at present. Political leaders have different opinions on what is happening in Chechnya. Republican Leader Doku Zavgayev is optimistic, as usual.

[Begin Zavgayev recording] The situation in Groznyy is fully under control at present. There were no incidents in any of the republic's settlements either yesterday or today. [end recording]

This position, as you understand, cannot but puzzle observers. Correspondents tend more to believe Movladi Udugov, the minister of press and information in the separatist government.

[Begin Udugov recording] Subunits of the Chechen government forces are currently implementing measures of a military nature in Groznyy in order to prepare for the second stage of a special operation. All occupied positions are under the control of the Chechen subunits. They have established control over administrative institutions and the police stations in the Oktyabrskiy, Staropromyslovskiy and Zavodskoy districts of Groznyy. [end recording]

Now over to our special correspondent in North Caucasus, Pavel Guskov. Good evening.

[Guskov] Good evening. First and foremost I would like to say that the reports saying that a satellite communications station in Groznyy has been destroyed may be somewhat exaggerated. My attempts to use satellite communications to reach Groznyy failed. I was not able to have a telephone conversation but I heard a prerecorded message on some telephone numbers. This

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means that the station is working. I hope to be able to get through to Groznyy during the night. Regarding your remarks about Zavgayev being optimistic and the fact that people are more likely to believe Udugov, I think that it is important to see if someone else could provide objective information. I have just managed to establish contact with a military radio-electronic intelligence officer in the North Caucasus. He said that radio contacts between the separatists are taking place only in Groznyy. He also said that, judging from their conversations, there are no active operations, no active groups of separatists in Gudermes, and if there are any separatist groups in other areas of Chechnya, then they are not active. This was the situation at 2000, two hours ago. The officer also said that there are growing radio contacts on the part of the federal troops and the Internal troops at around the same time. He said that these forces are currently in the center of Groznyy. Pavel Guskov, Mayak.

Russia: Rodionov Promises To 'Save People' in Chechnya

LD0708153296 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1300 GMT 7 Aug 96

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The management of our broadcasting company has just been in contact with Defense Minister Igor Rodionov, who assured them that he is fully abreast of the situation in Chechnya and will undertake all measures necessary to save people.

Russia: Khasbulatov Outlines Plan of Action for Ending Chechen War

LD0708205096 Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 7 Aug 96

[From the "Segodnya" news program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Proposals by a group of advisers to Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, head of the Chechen opposition, will probably be made public in the very near future. Ruslan Khasbulatov, former speaker of the Russian Supreme Soviet, has recently been put in charge of the group. We have learned the details of the plan of action which is to be proposed to people on whom ending the war in Chechnya depends. Here is a report by Arkadiy Mamontov.

[Begin recording] [Mamontov] Ruslan Khasbulatov, head of the group of advisers to the Chechen delegation to the peace talks with the federal authorities, made a statement today. It says that the fierce fighting in Groznyy has in fact been caused by the federal forces, who have violated the Nazran agreements, and by the special operations carried out by Russian troops throughout the duration of the talks since Yeltsin's peace plan was made public in March 1996.

According to Ruslan Khasbulatov, it is impossible to overcome the Russian-Chechen crisis by military force. The group of advisers propose the following specific solutions.

[Khasbulatov] Both sides must immediately stop military operations, or whatever they are called, to avoid mass deaths among the civilian population. Simultaneously, the federal troops and the resistance units must be pulled out to their places of deployment at the time of signing the Nazran agreements. The negotiating process must be resumed and turned into a constructive dialogue.

The level and importance, the status of the state delegation to the talks, must be made significantly more senior, so that the signatures of the delegation become obligatory for all officials in the Russian Federation, both military and civilian.

The present authorities in Groznyy must be recalled as being a factor destabilizing the situation in the Chechen republic and impeding the attempts to establish peace.

[Mamontov] Ruslan Khasbulatov thinks that, at present in Chechnya, there is no mechanism of control over the implementation of peace agreements. For this, in his opinion, one should rely on international organizations.

[Khasbulatov] We propose that somehow these guarantees, including international ones, their instruments, should be increased. In our view, parliament, parliamentary control, could play an important role here. Obviously, the basis of the OSCE mission in Groznyy should be strengthened. On the other hand, one can also ask the Council of Europe for assistance.

[Mamontov] As for the development of the situation in Chechnya, Ruslan Khasbulatov thinks that nothing good will happen in the immediate future.

[Khasbulatov] The longer the authorities engage in this cruel war, the stronger the forces of resistance become, because more and more people go to their side. It is unavoidable. They cannot be blamed for this. It is an objective process arising from the fact that the nature of this war is vicious, unfair, and very cruel. It is impossible to win this war.

[Mamontov] Ruslan Khasbulatov also said that he and his group are ready to act today.

[Khasbulatov] I propose they immediately get in touch so that we can be of specific use.

[Correspondent] For the time being, however, the Moscow authorities have not been in touch with the

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group of Khasbulatov's advisers. It seems that at present, Russian officials do not feel like talking either about peace or war. [end recording]

Russia: Groznyy Offensive Mirrors Pattern Established in Mar

MK0808114896 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 8 Aug 96 p 1

[Report by Maksim Kustov and Aleksandr Belonovskiy: "Zavgayev Has Fled Groznyy. Our Soldiers Are Defending Empty Buildings"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On the second day of the Groznyy attack the situation in the Chechen capital has become critical: The Zavgayev government has left its residence en masse and taken refuge on the premises of the largest Russian military base in Chechnya: Khankaly. But even here, surrounded by thousands of soldiers, it cannot feel secure. Since 6 August the base has come under fire by separatist fighters; its commandant, Col. Ashlapov, was killed. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, conflicting reports are coming in from Gudermes. According to the federal command the city is absolutely quiet. The separatists, however, maintain that they entered the city without a single shot being fired. Paradoxically, both could be right. The local police are doing their service conscientiously, in conformity with their work schedule, "seeing no" combatants.

Shortly before the storming 6,000 police were transferred to the barracks, preparing to defend Groznyy together with the regular forces. Given that according to various estimates the separatists number just several hundred men, the correlation of forces appears more than strange. True, the federal forces have long had an unequivocal opinion as to whether the Chechen police — or at least a substantial part of them — will shoot, and at whom.

The secretary of the State Commission on a Chechen Settlement, Sergey Stepashin, said that Yandarbiyev is not the only person to negotiate with and that in the very near future commission members could meet with other, more authoritative Chechen leaders. As is usual in such instances, Stepashin did not bother to specify whom he considers a more authoritative leader.

The impression is that the August "Yandarbiyev" storming of Groznyy is almost a literal repetition of the March "Dudayev" attack.

The same old questions reemerge: Why, shortly before the storming, were checkpoints removed in sectors of the breakthrough (or rather of the gunmen's safe infiltration into the city)? Why were the troops once again taken by surprise? After all, just as in March, the separatists had openly demonstrated their intention to do a little fighting in Groznyy. And the population began to leave the city several days before fighting broke out. Did the FSB [Federal Security Service] or the military intelligence service not wonder why the Chechens were doing that?

Russia: Official Version of Chechnya Events Ridiculed

MM0708161196 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 8 Aug 96 p 2

[Article by Aleksandr Khokhlov under the general heading "Bandits Better Prepared Than Generals for Assault on Groznyy": "Our Commentary"]

[FBIS Translated Text] ...Federal troops, in two days, have already routed at least three times each the "fragmented" groups of who entered Groznyy....

...The Russian president, meeting with the prime minister, noted that the rebels should be suitably rebuffed, but without the use of heavy artillery — so as not to hit the civilian population....

...Top officials on the state commission for making peace in Chechnya have asked Yandarbiyev to dissociate himself from the actions of the "intransigent rebels" who have unleashed warfare in Groznyy, otherwise peace talks will not be held with Dudayev's successor....

Baloney. Absolute baloney. Who do they take us for? Just five months ago, 6 March, the Dudayevites had already taken Groznyy. Then too talks were in progress — apparently they are always in progress, but that did not prevent the rebels from entering the city, slaughtering the OMON [special-purpose police detachment] fighters at several fortified checkpoints, and after three days "filtering" out of Groznyy unhindered. At that time the Russian troops lost around 100 men killed. Official propaganda announced the routing of the separatists. The soldiers themselves — I witnessed this — greeted the news of their victory with laughter and swearing.

Now the situation is just the same. The rebels were not going to take Groznyy, in March or in August. They lack the strength. But both times they caused more than enough of a stir to show the whole world what Russia's "complete control" of the situation in Chechnya really means.

To the outsider our politicians, military men, and special services are a bunch of complete idiots. To "overlook" the creation of weapons bases, the redeployment of the

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oppositionists' combat detachments, the establishment of communications and control! I don't know about the Kremlin wise men, but people in the Army, the police, and the Federal Security Service are doing their jobs properly. Coded messages from Groznyy were undoubtedly pouring into Moscow in the last days prior to the assault. Questions which have long since become commonplace: Who is supposed to make the decisions on the basis of the "power" agencies' proposals, who belongs to the "war party," who benefits from the war?

The troops in Groznyy are hostages to the Chechen rebels. They protect themselves at the fortified checkpoints and wait for the Chechens to come and kill them. And the Chechens come and kill them.

It is ridiculous to think that there are "good" oppositionists and "bad" ones. You can conduct talks with the former, they tell us, and not with the latter. The country is being zealously fed rumors about a split in the rebels's camp. Bullshit. The Russian troops are confronted by a strong, well-armed, and competent guerrilla army, disciplined by bonds of blood brotherhood. It is useless to play games with the Chechens. In these games they beat Russia, weakened as it is by the "fifth column" in Moscow, hands down. You have to either fight with everything you've got, or else leave Chechnya. "Border status" means dead bodies, more and more dead bodies of Russian boys.

...The poor mothers of soldiers and officers. "Twenty killed, 100 wounded...." Our authorities display such zinc-plated indifference because no zinc coffins are being delivered to their homes. It is you and I who pay for everything....

Russia: Two Explosive Devices Found, Defused in Moscow

LD0808095796 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Two powerful homemade explosive devices were made harmless in Moscow over the past 24 hours. One of them, comprising seven charges of TNT weighing a total of 5 kg, was found in the course of maintenance work to the roof of a multistorey residential building on (Volskiy Boulevard) in Kuzminki.

Personnel of the criminal investigation department found and removed an explosive device, comprising a grenade and 200 grams of TNT, from under a sales kiosk in Turgenevskaya Square.

Economic Issues

Russia: Fuel Minister Shafranik on Maritime Kray Energy Crsis

MM0808084596 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 7 Aug 96 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Strike Stopped but, Despite This, Whole of Far East in Need of Financial Support From State"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The principal reason for the crisis in Maritime Kray's fuel and energy complex is the general crisis in Russia's payments and financial system, Yuriy Shafranik, leader of the Russian Ministry of Fuel and Energy, stated in Vladivostok.

We have succeeded in settling debts for coal and electric power from the federal budget. However, in order to normalize situation in Maritime Kray's fuel and energy complex, it is essential to implement a series of tough measures, the minister said. They include an increase in tariffs for electric power to 530 rubles [R] per kilowatt-hour, the exclusion of resellers from the chain linking the coal producer to the consumer, increased productivity at fuel and energy complex enterprises, and the tightening up of payments discipline and labor discipline.

In the opinion of Yuriy Shafranik, the whole of the Far East is in need of financial support from the state. If the tariff for electric power in Maritime Kray is set at R530, the energy sector will necessarily be subsidized by the consumer. What we need is a healthy, solvent, and in the final analysis desirable consumer, the minister stated. The kray administration must itself decide on the spot to whom to give an electricity subsidy and who is capable of paying the high tariffs on their own.

The Fuel and Energy Ministry chief examined the question of resellers of electric power together with the kray administration. If they are excluded from the present chain linking the coal producer to the consumer, there will be a 20- to 25-percent improvement in the payments situation for Maritime Kray's energy sector. Yuriy Shafranik reported that Maritime Kray's governor has already signed a decree on excluding resellers from the energy sector's system.

The minister also said that it is possible that several personnel changes and structural changes in the "Primorskugol" and "Dalenergo" Joint-Stock Companies will be made.

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Russia: Regional Powers Blamed for Miners' Strike

MM0708131896 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Aug 96 p 2

[Article by Vladimir Kuzmishchev: "Again Looking for Hand of Moscow. Center Is Being Blamed for All Troubles, but Who Is Really To Blame. Subjective Observations on Energy Crisis in Maritime Kray"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] One of the most ancient political devices which was successfully used by the ancient Greeks and the Romans, the Byzantine emperors and instigators of the troubles in Russia during the 17th century, and of course the Bolsheviks, is to find an enemy on whom to blame everything when the authorities have begun falter. And not just find him but make sure that the people point the finger at him. For this it is necessary to at least make the people very bitter. The best way to do this is to keep them in constant need.

This device deflects attention from who is really to blame for the troubles and forces the newfound "enemy" to pay for them in the literal and figurative sense of the word. But most important in this extremely dangerous game is, of course, the question of power. Those to blame for the troubles become "champions of the people's interests." And if they do lose power, they do so with this heroic aura.

Such comparisons spring to mind when you see the miners' families sharing out their miserable rations and when you see the haggard faces of starving power workers and the savage desperation in the eyes of people taking part in rallies. They have not received any wages for five months now. On 1 August Maritime Kray Governor Yevgeniy Nazdratenko met with workers of Luchegorsk hydroelectric power station — the very place where 300 people are on hunger strike as a mark of protest. A common thread suffuses all the campaigning: Why are there no government representatives alongside the governor? After all it was the center's inattention to the sector's problems that led to this explosive situation.

Let us get to the bottom of this "inattention." Then it will become clear who created the explosive situation. The current crisis over arrears in payments to miners and power workers flared up as early as January.

On 8 February 60 billion rubles [R] were sent to Maritime Kray's miners on the orders of the president. They received R20 billion but the remaining R40 billion, while reaching Maritime Kray, did not make it to the miners' cash offices.

"Where is the rest of the money?" the miners asked Presidential Aide Aleksandr Livshits.

He tried to find out about this but had no success.

Then they set off, as the poet said, as if they had been scorched by the sun, repeating the almost rhetorical question: "But who is more important in our country — Yeltsin or Nazdratenko?" Everything pointed to Nazdratenko. But you see if the miners had received a further R40 billion at that time (one and a half months' wages), there would have been no strike.

If even a fifth of the R180 billion subsidy received by "Dalenergo" from the federal budget had gone to the miners, there would have been no strike.

The most widespread myth is that the state does not have any direct debts but still fails to pay federal services such as the border guards, the air defense forces, and others maintained by it. These federal services in turn do not pay the energy sector which does not pay the miners. Again Moscow is to blame.

There is an element of truth in this, but it is so insignificant as to make no difference. Of the R1.2 trillion which consumers have failed to pay "Dalenergo," the federal services only owe 11 percent. The debt owed by industrial enterprises and the local budget is not great. The main share of the debt of R730 billion is owed by commercial enterprises engaged in the sale of energy. If even a minuscule part of these R730 billion had gone to the miners, there would have been no chance of a strike. [passage omitted]

Returning to the beginning of these notes, it should be mentioned that a commission consisting of economists, legal specialists, and political scientists studied Maritime Kray Administration's activities between 1993 and 1995. A large document (of around 400 pages) was compiled on the subject of the activities of Yevgeniy Nazdratenko and his close circle of associates. The main conclusion of these documents boils down to the fact that the administration screws money out of the state for targeted programs then invests this money through commercial structures. As a result the programs are not implemented and the money disappears. Several organs of the mass media, including ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, managed at the time to publish articles based on the materials of this investigation. But those who initiated the investigation did not happen to be in power. Nazdratenko's powerful protectors did not give the results of this inspection a chance to have any effect.

Now a legally empowered commission with greater powers than the deputies' assistants two years ago has again traveled to Maritime Kray....

So it is once again time to remember the people. The authorities have begun to falter.

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Russia: Bankers 'Cannot Make Up Their Minds' on Bank Crisis Chances

MM0808112396 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 6 Aug 96 p 1

[Article by Igor Abramenko: "When Will Banks Start Collapsing"; from the "Business Tuesday" section p 1]

[FBIS Translated Text] Even bankers cannot answer the simple question as to whether or not there is going to be a bank crisis in Russia. Meeting to communicate with journalists on this burning issue, they just could not make up their minds.

The person who expressed this most clearly was Vladimir Semago, member of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation National Bank Council and State Duma deputy, who stated that the real crisis will start in the fall, when the fulfillment of the promises made in the course of the presidential elections will necessitate "switching on the printing presses, and then inflation as early as October-November could reach 12 percent a month." This situation could be triggered by Finance Ministry promissory notes, with which, in his view, problems will arise as early as September.

For his part Inkombank Vice President Yevgeniy Moiseyev stated that a possible exacerbation of the situation on the bank market does not frighten him: "With an unhealthy economy and an unhealthy society, we also have unhealthy competition, which has also been manifested recently." However, in his words, banks which do not resort to methods of uncivilized competition will survive.

Meanwhile, in the view of Nikolay Maslov, member of the Peresvet bank board of directors, the time has come for the government to give serious thought to legalizing shadow capital. Incidentally, he also proposed his own formula for retrieving the situation: "If you have stolen $1 million give $300,000 to the state and calmly do what you like with the rest."

Mr. Neverov predicted that "we inevitably have ahead of us some kind of landmark event comparable with August 1991." And that full-time fortune-teller and master of white and black magic Yuriy Long, who was so shamelessly ripped off by the president of the Germes concern, consulted the cosmic data bank and named the four most stable banks which will never have problems. The "four stars," according to the voice from outer space, are Menatep, Oneksimbank, the Stolichnyy Savings Bank, and Gutabank.

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International Affairs

Ukraine: Kiev Agrees To Separate Fleet Basing in Sevastopol

LD0708105896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1023 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Aug 7 (Interfax-Ukraine) - Basing the Ukrainian and Russian fleets in Sevastopol does not contradict the 1995 Sochi agreements on the Black Sea Fleet, Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Konstantin Grischenko told Interfax-Ukraine Wednesday.

The two fleets will be based separately, in different bays, he said.

"The features of the Sevastopol water area allows them to operate autonomously, without bothering each other," he underlined.

There are many similar cases in the world, Grischenko said, citing the naval bases in Subic Bay in the Philippines and in Napoles, Italy.

The location of the Ukrainian navy command is not a subject for negotiation, because "Ukraine will solve this issue on its own and on its own territory," Grischenko said.

Ukraine: UNA-UNSO Official on Proposed Prisoner Exchange

MK0708123196 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Aug 96 p 3

[Interview with UNA-UNSO Political Consultancy Group Chairman Anatoliy Lupinos by Viktor Timoshenko: "Moscow's Policy Is Immoral"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Timoshenko] Your visit to Moscow is hardly accidental....

[Lupinos] We have met with a group of Russian Federation Border Service representatives comprised of officers of the legal department, the department for work with personnel, the security service, and the commander of the Stavropol border detachment, who specially came together with us to Moscow. The Russian side was led by a representative of the border troops' security service. We agreed to exchange 14 Russian border guards being held by field commanders in Chechnya — these are Lieutenant Colonels A.L. Novozhilov and O.I. Zinkov; Medical Service Major V.B. Kachkovskiy; Captain P.N. Dudin; Sergeants S.V. Malofeyev and S.V. Durnev; Privates I.Yu. Laver, A.I. Kovalev, S.V. Saukin, A.M. Zheleznov, Ye.A. Rodionov, I.V. Yakovlev, A.I. Trusov, and I.B. Bessarab (incidentally, the federal troops command, for some reason, did not include them on the "all for all" list of exchange) — for seven UNA-UNSO [Ukrainian National Army-Ukrainian National Defense Union] members held on 25 April in Minsk during a demonstration devoted to the tenth anniversary of the Chernobyl tragedy. These are Ondrey Burlaka, Serhey Drygaylo, Ondrey Sheptitskiy, Serhey Potapov, Volodymir Solovey, Ondrey Mironyuk, and Vyacheslav Hoch. The list of our citizens has been endorsed by Major General Velen Martirosyan, chairman of the Committee for the Protection of Servicemen under the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

[Timoshenko] This is the Russian side's stance. Are there guarantees that the leaders of Ichkeria and Belarus will agree to the exchange?

[Lupinos] President Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev and Chief of Staff Aslan Maskhadov have agreed to the exchange. The problem consists only in that the Russian border guards should be assembled in one place, because they are being held by different field commanders. As for the Belarus president, Alyaksandr Lukashenka only dreams that our comrades should leave Minsk. Had he been guided by common sense rather than his ambitions, he would have realized that the arrest of the UNA-UNSO members is the main factor destabilizing Belarus. And the second thing: Alyaksandr Hrigorevich [Lukashenka] will do what he is told from Moscow. Each of the arrested men held in prison in Minsk considers it as happiness and a great honor to do all to hasten the downfall of Lukashenka's political regime. We are confident that the result of the exchange will be positive.

[Timoshenko] Pan [Mister] Anatoliy, there was a mixed reaction in Moscow to Dmitriy Korchinskiy's statement to the effect that there will be held in Kiev a conference of the leaders of "Belarus resistance forces" with the objective of elaborating measures aimed at deposing the regime of Belarus President Alyaksandr Lukashenka.

[Lupinos] The Russian mass media have misplaced the emphasis. We speak of a conference of representatives of Belarus national-patriotic forces which will be held in Kiev. When our organization was being formed at the end of the 1980's, we printed our newspapers and leaflets in Minsk and Vilnius. The Belarusians helped us then, and we help them now. The Lukashenka-Moscow regime is leading to the elimination of Belarus's statehood, but we will do our best so that our brothers can preserve their statehood.

[Timoshenko] The UNA-UNSO has its own geopolitical doctrine which largely determines the activity of your organization. Could you describe to our readers its main provisions?

[Lupinos] The main destabilizing factor on the territory of the ex-USSR is Moscow and the traditional imperial Russian policy. The United States would not understand this and speaks against the revival of ethnic states. Speaking objectively, Moscow is no longer properly the imperial center, it is rather a branch of world transnational companies. National forces do not dominate in

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Russia; Russian policy is cosmopolitan. In our opinion, only strong, dynamic, and tenacious nations will determine the future. But when I speak about Russian imperial traditions, this does not apply to the Russian people. These are traditions of the Russian political elites ever since the times of the Tatar [Golden] Horde. For me, Moscow's policy is the Horde's many-tribes policy, with the immoral oriental traits of those times characteristic of it.

Ukraine: Ukraine, Uzbek Presidents Discuss Relations in Crimea

LD0708173796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1619 GMT 7 Aug 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Presidents of Ukraine and Uzbekistan Leonid Kuchma and Islam Karimov ended a length meeting in Crimea, with both of them stating satisfaction with bilateral relations, Kuchma's spokesman told Interfax.

He said the two leaders were unanimous about close cooperation between Ukraine and Uzbekistan and implementation of joint projects.

The prospects of further cooperation and use of untapped opportunities were also discussed.

IF NOTE: Karimov also held talks with Crimean parliament speaker Yevgeniy Suprunyuk and promised to set up a working group on aid to Crimean Tatars returning to their homeland. Karimov said he and Kuchma would discuss the forms of such aid together.

Leaders of the Crimean Tatars Refat Chubarov and Mustafa Dzhemilev in a letter to the Uzbek leader expressed said the Crimean Tatars' parliament was willing to cooperate with the Uzbek authorities in seeking a solution to the problem of repatriation and resettlement of Crimean Tatars.

On Tuesday, Kuchma held telephone conversation with his Bulgarian counterpart Zhelyu Zhelev to discuss the state of relations between the two countries.

It was indicated that Ukrainian PM Pavlo Lazarenko's recent visit to Sofia had opened up fresh opportunities for sweeping cooperation between Ukraine and Bulgaria.

Agreement was reached that Kuchma would accept Zhelev's special envoy in Kiev soon.

Kuchma endorsed the make-up of a coordinating commission to implement the country's new constitution as well as regulations on the commission.

Apart from the president himself, it includes the prime minister and parliament speaker, government ministers, Ukrainian deputies, parliamentary and administration officials.

The commission is defined as a consultative body subordinated to the head of state and intended to carry out a systematic analysis and assessment of implementing the new basic law, discuss related legislation and work out recommendations for central and local government to remove whatever differences may arise. The commission approves decisions in the shape of recommendations.

Kuchma also dismissed head of the state committee for oil, gas and gas processing industry Yevgeniy Dovzhok because of retirement and accepted the resignation of first deputy head of the state atomic energy committee Nur Nigmatullin and dismissed its head Boris Demidyuk on "his own request".

Pavlo Mysnik is put in charge of the state committee for official secrets and information protection.

Ukraine: Government Discusses Curbs on Illegal Migration

LD0708192596 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 7 Aug — A meeting was held today at the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on the initiative and under the chairmanship of First Deputy Prime Minister Vasyl Durdynets. It discussed the state of implementation of government decisions on the struggle against illegal migration.

S. Sylkin, deputy head of the department for law-enforcement bodies and the struggle against crime under the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, told UNIAN that at the meeting the participants discussed a government resolution dated 15 January 1996 "On approving a program to combat illegal migration in 1996-97." In particular, he noted that they discussed the issue of forcibly repatriating from Ukraine foreign nationals. A decision was also adopted to set up a migration service in Ukraine in the near future.

In his words, more than 40,000 people are currently in violation of the rules on staying in Ukraine. S. Sylkin noted that the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine is preparing a new version of the law of Ukraine "On the legal status of foreigners" which will be passed to the Supreme Council for consideration later this year. He considers that a decision will be taken as early as this year "to establish whether foreigners have enough money to pay for transport costs associated with their repatriation and to purchase return tickets."

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National Affairs

Ukraine: Chechen Fighting Hampering Release of Ukrainians in Minsk

LD0708170196 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 7 Aug — None of the members of UNA-UNSD [Ukrainian National Assembly-Ukrainian National Self-Defense] who are in Chechnya have been hurt as a result of the combat actions that have intensified in the last few days, nor are they taking part in them, Viktor Melnyk, the chairman of the UNA's Executive Committee, told UNIAN. At the same time, he said that the escalation of fighting in Chechnya is complicating the issue of the exchange of seven UNA prisoners held in Minsk for 14 Russian border guards held in Chechnya. It is for this reason that a group of UNA members, headed by Anatoliy Lupynis, chairman of the Political Department, is currently in Chechnya.

V. Melnyk said that despite an earlier agreement between the leadership of the Russian Federal border guards service and the Belarusian leadership on the exchange of prisoners reached during talks with UNA, the Russian and Belarusian sides have not reached a clear agreement between themselves on carrying out the exchange. In his words, the information about the talks is contradictory: both sides have given their consent to such an exchange. However, they have accused each other of refusing to implement it.

Ukraine: Criminal Activities Plaguing All Sectors

LD0708171096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1523 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, August 7 (Interfax - Ukraine) — We have failed so far to stop criminalization of the society, which has plagued all areas of country's life, Coordination Committee Chairman for Combatting Organized Crime and Corruption Oleh Lytvak told a briefing at the presidential administration on Wednesday.

At the same time, he admitted, "a big step forward has been made in combatting crime against a person." Thus, in particular, a total of 302,000 such offences were reported over the first six months this year, which is 4.5 percent down on the same period last year.

However, O. Lytvak said, "there have been practically no changes in the economic crime." Over the early half year alone more than 20,000 such crimes were registered. As O.Lytvak explained, law enforcement bodies are unfamiliar with the methods and tactics of war on economic crimes.

"Data is available that there are a lot of senior officials who hold both government posts and those at joint-stock companies. Oleh Lytvak described this as "merging", and violation of the corruption laws and civil service legislation.

Speaking about the corruption law, which was adopted last autumn, Mr Lytvak described it as "stillborn", since no statistic data are available on the numbers of persons against whom legal proceedings were launched on the basis of this law.

Ukraine: Government To Establish Anti-Crime, Anti-Terrorism Centers

LD0808091896 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0815 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — A national program to combat crime has been drawn up in Ukraine, journalists learned at a briefing at the president's administration.

Oleh Lytvak, chairman of the Coordinating Committee for Combating Corruption and Organized Crime under the president of Ukraine, informed those present about the state of affairs in this area.

It was noted that at present, the priority task was to conduct a thorough analysis of the crime situation that had developed in the last few years and to provide a clear definition of the concept of "organized crime." In 1995 alone and at the beginning of 1996, law-enforcement bodies neutralized over 900 criminal gangs. The state is concerned that the law on corruption, adopted last year, is ineffective and that no system exists in the localities to put it into effect.

According to Oleh Lytvak, the Ukrainian Security Service will soon set up an antiterrorist center whose task will be to uncover, investigate, and prevent such crimes. The struggle against economic crimes will also be stepped up.

Ukraine: Party Denounces Action Against Miners' Leaders

LD0708210796 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1515 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — "The ruling regime in Ukraine has destroyed the economy, including the coal industry, and in the space of six months has brought about a situation where almost the entire people are owed money in the form of unpaid wages," reads an appeal from the Civic Congress of Ukraine party [CCU]. "It is searching for enemies of Ukrainian independence among the miners. M. Krylov has already been arrested in Donetsk, Mr Kit and M. Skrynskyy — in Krasnodon — and a criminal case has been launched

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against miners' leaders in Yenakiyevo, Selidovo, and Dzerzhinsk [sentence as received]. The authorities are attempting to destroy the popular movement, above all the Donetsk strike committee."

The CCU considers that the recent strikes, which ended with the blockading of transport routes, became the formal pretext for these moves. The judicial processes against the miners' leaders are not based on law and are being fabricated by the Kiev Themis in the vein of the Stalinist cases.

The CCU has called on all civic and political organizations, collectives of enterprises, and individual citizens to protest against the authorities' attempts to destroy the strike committee and put the strike leaders behind bars. It has also called on them to support the appeal.

Ukraine: Trade Union Federation 'Indignant' Over Miners Treatment

WS0808081596 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0224 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Aug. 7 — The International Federation of Trade Unions (FUTU), representing chemical, mining and power industry workers and unskilled laborers, has sent a telegram to Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma expressing indignation over the actions of the Ukrainian authorities against leaders of miners' strike committees.

As reported in STOLICHNAYA GAZETA on Wednesday, FUTU complained in the telegram that government arrests of miners' strike leaders have hindered the trade union from fulfilling its credo of worker protection.

Ukraine: Donesk Strike Committee Appeals Against Dissolution

LD0808091496 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0857 GMT 8 Aug 96

[By Anatoliy Gordeyev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DONETSK, August 8 (Itar-Tass) — The Donetsk strike committee has appealed to Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and the prosecutor-general to punish those responsible for the collapse of the coal industry.

Leaders of miners' protest actions have issued their statement through media today on the eve of hearings in the arbitration court.

The court will hear the suit of Donetsk's prosecutor against the Donetsk strike committee, asking for dissolving it.

The Donetsk committee leads the strike movement of miners of Donetskugol, the Europe-largest coal conglomerate, since 1989.

The statement says Ukrainian authorities "have hit with a punishing sword the Donetsk sectoral workers' committee instead of eradication of causes which gave rise to the hunger mutiny of miners".

Officials are moving fastly to disband the committee. Its co-chairman Mikhail Kuptsov was detained and moved from the Donetsk region, the statement continues.

Strike committee leaders remind Kuchma and the prosecutor-general that Ukraine's new constitution declares the right to work and payment.

The statement says miners had launched the protests because they were not paid since February of 1996 and were extremely impoverished.

Only hunger strikes made the government to look at miners' grievances and to recognise that their wage was not paid, union leaders say, adding that they are surprised that blame was placed on the Donetsk workers' committee.

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Belarus

Belarus: Lukashenka Explains Postponement of Yeltsin Meeting

LD0808083096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0751 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, Aug 8 (Interfax-West) — A working meeting of Belarusian and Russian presidents Alyaksandr Lukashenka and Boris Yeltsin has been postponed from August 8 for a later time, Lukashenka said Thursday over the national radio.

He explained postponement of this meeting by the fact that Yeltsin is very busy on the eve of the festive ceremony of inauguration scheduled for August 9 in the Kremlin. "It would not be a full-blooded meeting under such an intensive schedule of work," Lukashenka said.

"All issues related to further development of the Belarusian-Russian relations can be discussed during the session of the Supreme Council of Belarusian-Russian Community scheduled for September," Lukashenka said.

In characterizing the political situation in the republic, Lukashenka said that "the Belarusian leadership was able to bar the country from civil war and this is the major achievement."

Mentioning the initiative of seven largest political parties to hold a "round table" with the participation of the president to discuss the public political and socioeconomic situation in the country, Lukashenka said "there is nothing to discuss now."

According to Lukashenka, it is necessary to directly start work over draft programs of the country's economic development worked out by experts from the presidential administration and a group of independent developers in order to finally define the direction of the republic's further movement. "It is also necessary to introduce corrections in the political course, we plan to hold a nationwide referendum for this purpose in Belarus in early November," he said.

"It is important for the people to confirm the trends of our movement forward," Lukashenka said. These are two problems which must be resolved by all political parties and public political movements of the republic which are interested in economic prosperity of Belarus and its political stability, he said.

Lukashenka cannot understand "caprices" of the supreme legislative body which says that "the president's initiative on referendum probably will not be confirmed." Lukashenka said "any struggle against the president will lead to an adverse effect for the parliamentarians themselves."

At the same time Lukashenka said he "does not intend to disband the Supreme Soviet because in the future it is supposed to form a chamber of representatives and senate on the basis of this parliament."

Belarus: Lukashenka on Supreme Soviet, Referendum

WS0708131196 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1200 GMT 7 Aug 96

[Interview with Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka by unidentified journalists representing unspecified news agencies in Minsk; date not given — in Russian — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Lukashenka] I simply want to express my principled position on the so-called roundtable. Perhaps you remember quite well that those who are currently inviting me to participate in the roundtable met in this hall at this president's roundtable quite recently. I recently returned from my trip to Homel Oblast. I visited most distant rayons, the most faraway settlements which have never been visited by a [collective farm] foreman, not to mention the president. The people told me this. You know I did not see any disagreements there. The people trust and support [me]. When the situation is very difficult, they endure it. Those who work see the light at the end of the tunnel. What kind of disagreement is at issue there? The members of the Belarusian Popular Front and the Communist Party have already begun to agree. What else is needed? I am glad that these two opposite trends have finally united. What other kind of agreement is needed? I am not going to [word indistinct] this agreement, I will continue to support it by all means.

Taking advantage of this occasion, I invite all parties, public movements, and trends, who now have an interest in the future national accord, who have an interest in the economic strength of our state, to discuss the future course of our state and the program which has been drafted at my instruction. On 15 August a final agreed version [of the program] or one of these programs, which will be chosen by experts, will be submitted to me for confirmation. This is the subject for discussion, this is the program about which deputes are speaking so much. Let us discuss this subject.

The second issue is the referendum. A new course and a drafted program require a relevant normative basis. I see it as changes in the current Constitution. I propose that they be introduced through the referendum. The Constitution must be approved by the people. Then neither Lukashenka nor Sharetski, neither deputies nor the executive or any other power will argue, because the people will express their opinion. These are two big

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problems which we can discuss today at our round table. We have held many discussions of that kind — with experts — in this hall. Therefore, I am ready to discuss this problem with experts, not with representatives of political parties.

Therefore, I want to stress again that I am inviting all those involved and those who care about our country to stop this procrastination and come to the government and the president to 1) the country's course and program which has been drafted by groups of scientists and experts and which the president will submit to society for discussion, and 2) a relevant legislative basis to support this program, this new.... [sentence not finished]

[Reporter] Your appeal for active participation in harvesting was, as a matter of fact, somewhat misinterpreted by some politicians. As the executive power is directly involved in the work in this sphere, some city [words indistinct] deputies went to their districts to conduct some special sort of work. What do you think about this?

[Lukashenka] Yes, I know about this tendency. A massive anti- presidential campaign is under way disguised as [deputies'] meetings with people to tell them how hard they worked down here in the Supreme Soviet. [This is] an all-out anti-presidential campaign on the part of the Supreme Soviet. Once again, they are beginning to persecute and deceive people. Why did the deputies get so scared? They are scared of a referendum, a new Constitution which I have spoken about. I, however, ask a direct question: What illegal things am I doing? Does the president have the right to call a referendum? Yes, he does. Can he submit to people various issues for approval? Yes, he can. In compliance with the present Constitution, I take advantage of my constitutional right and submit a proposal to held a referendum. In this case, the Supreme Soviet is obligated — and we have such experience, just recall the referendum in May 1995 — to set a date for the referendum. [?I am sure] that this is possible on 7 November. It is a holiday. All agricultural work will be completed by that time. The industry [words indistinct] will start working properly. And this is when we will hold this referendum. What is so bad in a small country to consult with the people on three, four, or five issues? Fear not. But why did the deputies react to this in that way? It is just that the leaders of the Supreme Soviet also are beginning to intimidate the deputies, who do not possess full information, and to rule there [in parliament] with a rod of iron, despite the fact that I told Sharetski at the joint Security Council meeting: [I have] no goal to disband the Supreme Soviet.

Is there any sense in holding another election campaign? Following the adoption of a Constitution — and I hope that the people will support me — we will form a chamber of representatives [palata predstaviteley] and a senate [senat] from this Supreme Soviet. Why do we need some elections? This is quite possible under the Constitution. Why do we have to hold them? And why do we have to deceive the deputies who are currently working in the Supreme Soviet? They, not knowing and not understanding this, are today launching a struggle against the president. But I want to say that this struggle will have the opposite effect. I am sure: the people will not betray me, will not surrender. The people will support me. They see who goes where and with which ambassador, who drinks vodka today, and who visits the Chernobyl zone or mows hay along the Prypyats River. They understand everything. They are not stupid. Therefore, I often announce: "Ladies and gentlemen!" [words in quotations in Belarusian] Stop touring cities and [word indistinct]. My perception of this is extremely negative. Today I requested information about those meetings, gatherings, and distraction of the people from concrete matters. I want the people to have a slice of bread. I want the people to be provided for in cold, severe winters; I hope to God [?the upcoming winter] will be the same as the last one as regards the provision of bread, potatoes, milk, and meat. If this takes place, the people will support me and forgive me a lot for what I did wrong. This is the president's principled position with regard to these issues.

[Unidentified reporter] Yesterday INTERFAX, [words indistinct] the program of Boris Yeltsin's inauguration [words indistinct] your trip to Moscow and meeting with the Russian leadership.

[Lukashenka] Yes, this meeting was rescheduled for 9 [August]. In connection with the changes, as you rightly said, reported by the media in Moscow, there will also be changes in our schedules, in the schedules of both the Russian president and mine. Since — I emphasize once again — the meeting on 8 [August] cannot have a very businesslike character, we will hold it on 9 [August]. Let them get ready for the presidential inauguration. We will have time to meet at a sitting of the Higher Economic Council of the Community. It is currently being prepared, and I think that we will hold a Higher Economic Council sitting no later than one's month time. We have a number of questions concerning the customs committees and border troops of both states; it is necessary to adopt specific resolutions and earmark funds from our states' budgets. We will held a sitting with the head of the Higher Economic Council of the Community, and within the framework of this sitting

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we will have time with Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin to discuss [words indistinct].

Belarus: Lukashenka 'Wavering' Under Opposition Pressure

MM0608153296 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 2 Aug 96 p 2

[Report by Yevgeniy Rostikov: "'Zero Option' at Zero for the Time Being"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the end of February Presidents Yeltsin and Alyaksandr Lukashenka signed an agreement between the Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation on settling financial claims known as the "zero option."

In accordance with it, Belarus' debt to Russia, which is equivalent to $1,387,600,811, the bulk of it represented by debts to the Gazprom Russian Joint-Stock Company, was to be written off. For its part, Belarus pledged to receive no payment henceforth for the Russian military facilities located on its territory, for the passage of gas and oil pipelines across it, or for the use of roads and air space. These points of the agreement generated particular criticism of Lukashenka's actions from the opposition, which claimed that he had virtually "given Belarus away for one-third of its value."

Unfortunately, the practical implementation of the signed agreement has been beset with great difficulties. A high-powered delegation, headed by presidential chief of staff Mikhail Myasnikovich, has been to talks in Moscow to speed up this process. It was informed that, in accordance with the Russian Federation Government's instruction, a detailed study of these difficult questions had been initiated.

Meanwhile, the opposition loses no opportunity to proclaim that the Russian authorities, having used Minsk for its electoral purposes, has no intention at all of fulfilling the agreement and therefore argues that there has been enough of giving Russia "everything for free" inasmuch as "the republic's geostrategic position is many times more valuable than all Lukashenka's scenarios." And the Belarusian president has been wavering. At a recent meeting with entrepreneurs he was forced to admit that the agreement with Russia, including the customs union, was not being fulfilled by Russia.

The Belarus president seems psychologically ready to study the "new options" long spoken about by the opposition. While the opposition is not only threatening Alyaksandr Lukashenka with impeachment but also predicting that he will share the same fate as Bohdan Khmelnytskyy, who "after making a present of Ukraine to Moscow was forced to quit the political stage and died unwanted by anyone."

Belarus: Two Questions To Be Asked in November Referendum

WS0808072996 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0659 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk, 7 August — As is generally known, President Alyaksandr Lukashenka repeatedly announced his intention to hold a national referendum in autumn this year. According to information received, a group of analysts working in the Presidential Administration on the organization of such a referendum suggested to Alyaksandr Lukashenka that questions put forward for the referendum should be reduced to two. They are formulated approximately as follows: 1. Which kind of ownership of land do you prefer? - public (Yes or No); - private (Yes or No). 2. Do you approve the new edition of the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus?" (Yes or No). To substantiate the necessity of holding the referendum, the organization of a large-scale propagandistic campaign both inside and beyond the country is suggested.

Belarus: Russian Official Cited on Prospects for 'Deeper Merging'

WS0808073096 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0659 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk, 7 August — Valery Serov, Russia's minister on CIS affairs, said in an interview with a BELORUSSKAYA GAZETA correspondent that there is a possibility for deeper merging of Belarusian and Russian statehoods. "If all we plan today is implemented, if there are certain achievements, then we may talk about forms of deeper merging," Mr Serov said and added that in the end this should be decided by Belarusians and Russians at referenda. The problems of Belarusian-Russian relations are attributed to a "certain lag of Belarus in the development of reform... Two economies with different approaches to such economic processes as privatization, the establishment of uniform taxation, uniform customs and other services cannot be integrated." Mr Serov also said that the two countries have already started the implementation of certain investment projects. The parties recently signed an agreement on the establishment of a joint venture for the production of optical and mechanical equipment for Russian electronic industry. This project includes the production of super processor integrated circuits and will permit the two countries to be free from dependence on foreign suppliers in this field. Among other joint projects to be implemented in the near future Mr Serov dwelt on the production by factories in Minsk, Lipetsk and Vladimir of tractors competitive on the world market, fitting out of BelAZ heavy dump trucks with Yaroslavl-produced engines and deliveries of the Mogilev Chemical Fiber Factory's products to Russia.

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Moldova

Moldova: Sangheli: Presidential Election Must Not Drain Economy

LD0708152496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1506 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CHISINAU, Aug 7 (FIA-Interfax) — The Moldovan government will take necessary measures so that the presidential elections in the country slated for November 17, 1996, and the election campaign will not "bleed the national economy white," Moldovan Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli told a news conference in Chisinau on Wednesday [7 August].

Sangheli, a candidate in the Moldovan presidential elections nominated by the ruling Agrarian Democratic Party, said he intended to lead the Cabinet until October 1.

Regarding the loans extended by Germany's Dresdner Bank and Commerzbank and totalling $15 million and DM 15 million which Moldova will receive in September 1996, he said the money would not be entirely spent on social needs, in particular on the payment of pension arrears.

Moldovan overdue pensions currently total $43.4 million.

Part of the loans will be given to energy companies, Sangheli said.

The re-scheduling of the debt for Russian natural gas supplies for seven years granted by Russia's Gazprom gas company gives reason to hope that Moldova will have enough energy supplies during the fall 1996 and the winter 1996-1997, he said.

Moldova's annual need in electricity is estimated at 8-8.5 billion kilowatt hours. The country has a capacity of producing up to 20 billion kilowatt hours annually.

Experts do not discount the possibility that Moldova may export over 10 billion kilowatt hours of electricity per year after upgrading several thermal power plants and the Moldovan Hydroelectric Power Plant.

The upgrade project will be funded with the participation of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Moldova: Sangheli Denies Hand in Embezzlement

LD0708151096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1409 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CHISINAU, Aug 7 (Interfax) - Moldovan Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli has described as "a dirty political game" the reports in various Romanian and Moldovan media that he had allegedly participated in the embezzlement of funds used to pay for the supplies of Russian natural gas and that the Moscow Prosecutor's Office instituted criminal proceedings against him.

Sangheli told a news conference in Chisinau Wednesday that he had filed suits against the media that published the reports.

Sangheli intends to run for the Moldovan presidency at the November 17 elections on the Agrarian Democratic Party ticket.

He said he does not intend to step down as prime minister for the period of the election campaign and will remain head of the government at least until early October.

In addition, Sangheli warned against illusions about Transdniester settlement in connection with the election campaign. Talks with Transdniester have been frozen at least until early 1997, he said.

As for the possibility of deploying military bases on Moldovan territory or of Chisinau joining a military-political bloc, Sangheli said it is prohibited by the Moldovan Constitution and he does not intend to violate it.

Moldova: Civil Movement Created in Support of Snegur

LD0708180596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1619 GMT 7 Aug 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As many as 17 Moldova's political parties, associations and non-government organizations signed a statement on creation of the Civil movement in Chisinau Wednesday. The movement intends to support the candidacy of current president Mircea Snegur at the upcoming presidential elections.

The authors of the document see their supreme goals in Moldova's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, European integration and good neighborhood with all countries and peoples.

"Support of Snegur's candidacy today would mean support of democratic reforms, Moldova's integration in the European structures, protection of human rights irrespective of the nationality, sex, religion, as well support to the struggle against poverty, unemployment, corruption, crime, against spiritual and physical degradation of the people. If we support Snegur's candidacy we shall disrupt the attempt of neo-communist and corrupted forces to take the institute of presidency under

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their control as it was done with respect to the parliament and government, and, thus, to transform us into a people deprived of the future," the statement said.

Leaders of political formations which signed the statement proclaimed that their movement is open for everybody and invited other political parties, associations and nongovernment organizations and separate people to join it.

There are names of representatives of right-wing political parties and movements who firmly adhere to principles of independence and sovereignty, of the Christian-Democratic Popular Front who openly favor unification of Moldova and Romania among those who have signed this document.

The presidential elections in Moldova will be held on November 17. The official election campaign will begin on August 19. Several more people, including President Mircea Snegur, Prime Minister Andrey Sangeli and parliament speaker Petr Luchinskiy expressed the wish to run for the Moldovan presidency.

In particular, deputy from Moldova's ruling Agrarian-Democratic Party Marichika Levitskaya officially declared about this at a press conference Wednesday. She also said she would come out to the second round of elections and even knows her future contender but did not name him.

FOR NOTE: Levitskaya was elected parliament deputy on lists of the Agrarian-Democratic party, however, she declared about her withdrawal from the party together with ten other deputies who entered the presidential Party of Revival adn Accord. However, she did not join this party either and declared that she returns to the Agrarian-Democratic Party of Moldova a year ago.

Levitskaya told the press conference that she has her own electorate, relies on it and will not give her votes to anybody at any stage of elections. She hopes primarily for the votes of rural citizens.

Asked whether she has a team of professionals to form a new government if she wins, Levitskaya told Interfax that there are such people, they are members of different parties.

There will remain only seven ministries and not a single department in case of her victory, Levitskaya said. However, she did not enumerate these ministries and said that everything will be presented in her pre-election platform.

Levitskaya demands the president, parliament chairman and prime minister suspend their duties for the period of the elections campaign. This is necessary, she said, in order to create equal conditions for the struggle of all candidates. However, this is not stipulated by any Moldovan law, she said with regret.

Anatoliy Plugaru who headed Moldova's National Security Ministry during the armed conflict in Transdniestria, declared his intention to run for the republic's presidency.

Addressing a press conference he spoke against signing of a draft memorandum on normalization of relations between Moldova and Transdniestr worked out by the authorities. According to Plugaru, "one can estimate several provisions of this document as creation of a dangerous precedent encouraging militant separatism."

Plugaru attracted attention to the fact that actual legalization of the ruling regime in Transdniestria will follow singing of the memorandum. "This contains greater danger due to the fact that both criminal elements from the whole territory of the former USSR and interests of international criminal communities are concentrated in the region."

Plugaru said he wants to join the election campaign in order "to bring order in the country." He criticized the leadership's attempt to solve the Transdnestr problem by military means in 1992. This attempt was destined to a failure from the very beginning because Moldova was actually fighting with Russia but not with Transdniestr.

"Moscow was developing the plan to unleash the war and Chisinau did everything in order to simplify Moscow's task and to subject Moldova to a new Russian occupation," Plugaru said.

Asked about the role of the National Security Ministry and the minister himself in unleashing the conflict, Plugaru said that "the Ministry acted in a strict conformity with the Constitution and laws and he does not see his own guilt, however he is ready to answer if other leaders are made answerable as well." Officials guilty of the loss of the war "must shoot themselves as honest officers usually do," Plugaru said. However, he himself thinks he must not do this.

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Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyzstan: Premier Proposes Measures Against Contraband Tobacco

LD0708191196 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 0900 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Dzhumagulov has proposed several measures to raise the efficiency of the struggle against contraband trading in excise goods, and in particular tobacco goods. He put forward the measures at a regular session of the Commission for combatting economic crime. The measures include carrying out all-round inspections of depots in the republic and finding out the sources that supplying contraband goods to market; notifying the public through the media that they will be held criminally liable for trading in contraband and informing people that buying unchecked contraband goods may be hazardous to health; and also reducing excise taxes and tightening up customs controls.

Kyrgyzstan: Agriculture Minister Forecasts Grain Self-Sufficiency

LD0508100796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0956 GMT 5 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BISHKEK, Aug 5 (Interfax) — Kyrgyzstan will have achieved self-reliance for food grain following this year's crops estimated at 1.3 million tonnes, Agriculture Minister Karimzhon Abdimomunov told reporters in Bishkek on Monday.

He said that food grain made up 900,000-950,000 tonnes of this amount compared with the country's need of 800,000.

But Bishkek has no plans of selling off the surplus, said the minister.

This year's average yield stands at 2.45 tonnes per one hectare compared with 1.95 tonnes in 1995.

The minister said crops had now been taken in from 30% of the cropland adding that up to 1.5 million tonnes of grain could be taken in unless the average yield dropped by the end of the harvesting season.

On the animal husbandry, he said the government was planning to launch a new program for next year, sheep-breeding, aimed at increasing the livestock of sheep and goats whose numbers dropped from 6 million head in 1991 to 4.5 million this year.

Abdimomunov said the livestock of horses and cattle had halved from about 2 million in 1991 to 1 million this year, though there were signs of an upward trend.

Kyrgyzstan: Prosecutor on Crime, Drugs Problems in Osh

LD0808085196 Osh EKHO OSHA in Russian 25 Jul 96 p 1

[Unattributed report: "A. Beknazarov: I Bow to the Law, and to the Law Alone"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A frank speech by Adylzhan Beknazarov, public prosecutor of the town of Osh, at a recent meeting of the coordination council of the municipal law-enforcement bodies caused a stir in public circles in the regional center. After a detailed analysis of crime in the town, he pointed to the causes and conditions promoting its growth. And harsh criticism of the police and the staff of the public prosecutor's office was voiced.

Public prosecutor A. Beknazarov gave an interview on this and other topics.

[EKHO OSHA] Adylzhan Beknazarovich, are you not afraid of throwing stones at the holy of holies—the police and prosecutor's office investigators?

[Beknazarov] Journalists are always after something piquant. I would not emphasize just this point. There have always been plenty of weak employees and yes-men doing deals with their consciences. Let us take the fact that a total of 541 (!) criminal investigations were halted by the investigators of Osh town's police department in the first six months of the year, and 47 by the inquiry department. Just consider, at least 600 offenders avoided punishment, and there may have been many out-and-out criminals among them. Unfortunately, the staff of the law enforcement bodies bear a large share of the blame for this.

[EKHO OSHA] Over the last few years, the police bodies and most likely the public prosecutor's offices as well have lost many professionals, while young novice officers have come to replace them. Will justice ever prevail if a young detective conducts the case in the interests of personal profit?

[Beknazarov] There are a total of 24 investigators working in the investigation department of Osh municipal internal affairs department and half of them are young people, recent graduates from higher education establishments. They have a great deal of enthusiasm and youthful energy. But so far, they have little professional experience. Raising their professional level falls within the competence of the senior staff of the municipal police department. The situation is more or less the same in our office, the prosecutor's office.

As far as any attempts to conduct cases in mercenary interests are concerned, these will be suppressed in a

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very resolute way. But it is also a fact that the police are coming in for more and more reproaches from the population for its actions, particularly the actions of staff of the Internal Affairs department patrol and checkpoint service. A total of 98 complaints about unjustified actions on the part of the police have been registered and five criminal proceedings have already been instituted in respect of these in the first six months of this year.

[EKHO OSHA] By the way, recently I had a conversation with two young men, who were taken by the police together with dozens of other "suspicious" people straight from Osh bazaar. They were press-ganged into making bricks... When we go to bazaar or the cinema or go to visit somebody, do we really have to carry our passport around with us now?

[Beknazarov] Staff of the interior bodies are responsible for carrying out checks to ensure strict observance of the passport regime. The task is all the more important in light of the decree by the president of Kyrgyz Republic "On Urgent Measures for Strengthening Law and Order and Strengthening the Fight Against Violations of the Law." However, 103 people out of 259 brought to the police reception center (we are again talking about the first six months of this year) were immediately released on the instructions of the municipal prosecutor's office. I have once again reminded senior police officers of the need for strict observance of citizens' constitutional rights. The fact that the town is full of people coming from other regions, including refugees, does not free us of the obligation to follow the spirit and the letter of the law. There are quite a lot of other ways of revealing, catching, and isolating offenders.

We can and should strengthen the authority of the law enforcement bodies only through the results of our work.

[EKHO OSHA] You have become a fierce enemy of drug dealers and ringleaders of the shadow economy.

[Beknazarov] Alas, ancient Osh is now one of the key points on the drug-trafficking route from Asia to Europe and further. A total of 92 crimes related with narcotic substances have been committed in Osh over first half year of 1996. And here, nearly 103 kg of drugs were seized from detained people. Criminal proceedings have been brought in the aforementioned cases, and as of today, investigations in 57 criminal cases submitted for consideration by the courts have been concluded.

I am sure that those who have been arrested were only a link in this terrible chain. They are the distributors, carriers, and consumers, while the "sharks" of the narcotics business go unpunished. The law enforcement bodies have to concentrate their efforts on uncovering them, the organizers and bosses of the narcotics trade.

...There have been some changes in the fight against economic crime and corruption. [beginning ellipses as published] A total of 57 criminal cases have been brought on these grounds during the last six months, which is far more than in the same period last year. I think this time, several well known dealers who previously we could not pin down with documentary evidence will not escape without paying the price. [passage omitted]

[EKHO OSHA] You mentioned crime by women as being a new phenomenon in the region. About 30 young women went through the remand center last year...

[Beknazarov] And not only young and pretty ones, but also mothers of big families as well. Crimes relating to narcotic substances and thefts are being committed by women, and the number of female swindlers is growing. Women- burglars and women-racketeers have become a reality. I would explain this phenomenon as being due not only to economic difficulties and the hardships of everyday life, but also to overall moral decline. Never have our women been as angry as now. Tatyana Nebogatova of Osh beat her 10-year old son Alesha to death, accusing him of stealing money from some relatives staying with them. Feruza Osmonova killed her 10-month-old son with an axe—"there was nothing to feed him with." There have been cases of women asking passers-by to buy their children in the streets—"buy, it is not expensive." When and in what age has there been such a thing? A total of 53 crimes committed by representatives of the fair sex have been registered in Osh in the first half year. No, crime indeed knows no gender boundaries.

[EKHO OSHA] The reality is such that there are more and more desperate women who have decided on the final step...

[Beknazarov] Of course, this is far from chance. The burden of hardships weighs down on their shoulders heaviest of all. Society must reflect seriously why an increasing number of people are opting to end their own lives—to take a step condemned by all teachings and religions. Hanging themselves, taking poison, or drowning themselves... Are 113 cases not too many for one not very big town? One's heart breaks from a sense of guilt before the dead. Wherever I have gone, I have been talking about that: let us take care of one another and help. People have to remain people.

[Beknazarov] Nevertheless, according to statistics, crime in the town decreased by slightly more than eight percent over the first six months, and the rate of

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solving crimes improved a little. Does this instill in us optimism?

[EKHO OSHA] It would be desirable were this to become a tradition. Of 13 murders, 12 have been solved, including that of a citizen of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Sayed Askar Gafur, which shocked the whole republic. The murder was solved by the joint efforts of staff of the Internal Affairs department, the municipal internal affairs section, and the prosecutor's office. There have been successes in hooliganism and robbery. But crimes against private property have increased and crimes amongst juveniles, including serious crimes, have doubled. This is a cause for serious concern. Special attention is paid to observance of labor legislation at enterprises, establishments, and joint-stock companies. Thirty-one protests were submitted following inspections, and the infringed rights of citizens were restored. [passage omitted]

Tajikistan

Tajikistan: UN Military Observers Start Performing Duties

LD0708120596 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1117 GMT 7 Aug 96

[By Itar-Tass]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DUSHANBE, August 7 (Itar-Tass) — Military observers of the UN mission in Tajikistan have got a possibility to perform their duties in the Tavil-Dara zone, Tajik President's press secretary Zafar Saidov told ITAR-TASS on Wednesday [7 August].

Saidov said with reference to the Secretary of the Tajik Security Council, Abdurakhmon Azimov, that the military observers have opened their office in the regional centre of Hovaling, 70 km south-west of Tavildara.

According to Saidov, the Tajik Defence Ministry renders any kind of assistance to military observers, providing them with helicopters if necessary and allowing them to visit the positions of governmental troops, as stipulated in the agreement reached during negotiations in Ashkhabad.

Governmental troops came under fire in several settlements overnight to Wednesday, Itar-Tass learned at the press centre of the Defence Ministry.

The troops retaliated with fire on Tajik armed opposition positions. Both sides have killed and wounded.

Tajikistan: Iranians, Pakistanis Among Rebels Set To Cross Border

LD0808091196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0849 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DUSHANBE, August 8 (Interfax) — Between 700 and 800 Tajik militants are poised on the Afghan side of the border with Tajikistan readying for a breakthrough into that republic.

Lt. Gen. Pavel Tarasenko, commander of the Russian border troops in Tajikistan, told journalists yesterday that the rebels, deployed along the Khorog, Vanch, and Kalaykhum lines, include nationals of Pakistan, Iran and some other Middle East countries.

Their key goal, Tarasenko said, is to cross into Tajikistan and then infiltrate into the Tavil-Dara zone to reinforce the armed opposition there.

Refuting some media reports that border guards have been opening fire on targets in Afghanistan, the commander said that he "did not receive such orders" and his subordinates "have been only striking at those who violate frontiers."

Tajikistan: Government Troops, Russian Bombers Attack in Tavil-Dara

LD0808084396 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Tajikistan in Tajik 0600 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] According to reports by the army of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan, severe clashes are continuing in various areas of Tavil-Dara District. The regime's forces, supported by Russian military bombers, are carrying out assaults on Tavil-Dara, Karanak, and (?Saghirdasht) fronts from Dushanbe every day, but the mujaheddin of the army of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan are bravely resisting these assaults. The number of killed and wounded is increasing day by day.

Five more of the regime's soldiers were killed yesterday as a result of a retaliatory attack.

The press office of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan reports with regret that civilians are sustaining casualties and material losses as a result of the attacks by the forces loyal to Emomali Rakhmanov.

Tajikistan: Transit Traffic Resumes in Uzbekistan After 4-Year Break

LD0708190096 Dushanbe KHOVAR in Russian 1200 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] After a break of nearly four years, transit traffic has resumed through the territory of

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neighboring Uzbekistan along the Tursunzade highway. [Tajik] Deputy Minister of Transport Narzullo Dustov comments: "The government of Uzbekistan decided to close this highway after the well-known events of 1992. It made it difficult to deliver and export freight and also restricted traffic after the situation in the republic stabilized. We were forced to transport economic freight through the Anzob pass, which entailed many difficulties: a complex mountain road, a long distance, and seasonal opening of the pass.

"We finally sent the first freight along the Dushanbe-Tursunzade-Termez route yesterday. However, I must note, Dustov said, that not all the restrictions have been lifted yet. Only trucks and official cars are permitted to use the route. Despite these restrictions we are glad that the highway is opened at last. This event has not only economic but also political importance. The very fact that the interrupted transport communications between our countries have been restored is indicative of much that is good."

Tajikistan: Rakhmanov Ready To Meet Opposition Leader

LD0808074096 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0500 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Zafar Saidov, press secretary of the head of the state, said the following about the planned meeting between President Emomali Rakhmanov of Tajikistan and Sayed Abdullo Nuri, leader of the Tajik opposition:

Unfortunately, despite the agreements on observing the cease-fire regime and cessation of other hostilities reached during the last Tajik talks in Ashgabat, the terms of the cease-fire are not being observed. For example, between 20 and 31 July, 12 servicemen were killed and 45 injured as a result of firing by opposition groups on the positions of government forces.

The government of the Republic continues to regard the cessation of clashes as the most important factor in clearing up the Tajik conflict. The government has recently devised positive measures to settle the problems by political means. One of these measures is a proposal to hold a meeting between Emomali Rakhmanov and Sayed Abdullo Nuri, and we think the sides could reach an accord on strengthening and extending the cease-fire regime and the cessation of war and other important problems.

As is known, the initiative of the president of Tajikistan on cessation of clashes throughout the whole period of the talks was praised by UN representatives. We are grateful to the leadership of the Russian Federation for offering Moscow as a venue for Rakhmanov and Nuri's meeting. At present we take into account the fact that the disputed subjects should be considered during this meeting and that one should refrain from putting forward conditions. Yet the opposition is putting forward conditions ahead of the meeting.

President of Tajikistan Rakhmanov, in contrast to the leadership of the opposition, is ready to participate in the meeting without any conditions.

Turkmenistan

Turkmenistan: President Niyazov Arrives in Moscow 7 Aug

LD0808091996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0858 GMT 8 Aug 96

[By Oleg Lukin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ASHGABAT, August 8 (Itar-Tass) — Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov who arrived in Moscow on Wednesday to participate in the inauguration ceremony of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, will meet on Thursday the leadership of the Russian Gazprom joint stock society (Eds: Russian largest gas producer and exporter), Itar-Tass learnt at the press service of the Turkmen president here.

Niyazov intends today to sign a protocol of founders of the Turkmen-Russian Turkmenrosgaz joint stock society with Rem Vyakhirev, board chairman of the Gazprom company.

The document will spell out conditions for further operations of this joint venture which is engaged in transporting and selling Turkmen gas on markets of the Commonwealth of Independent States since the start of 1996.

Turkmenrosgaz plans to start gas production in Turkmenistan in the near future.

Niyazov also intends to hold, in Moscow, a tripartite meeting with the leadership of Gazprom and the American Unocal company on participation in a joint project to build a gas pipeline from Turkmenistan across Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Turkmenistan: Niyazov Calls Grain Harvest 'Unsatisfactory'

LD0508163696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1440 GMT 5 Aug 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Addressing an enlarged cabinet meeting, President Saparmurad Niyazov has described

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as unsatisfactory the results of the grain harvesting that has just ended in the republic.

His press service has told Interfax that instead of the planned target of 1 million tonnes of grain, farmers gathered only 480,000 tonnes with an average yield of 9 centners per hectare.

Niyazov blamed the poor harvest on Agriculture Ministry chiefs and on his regional envoys, whose position, according to him, lacked "principle and constructiveness."

At the meeting, Niyazov sacked his envoys in the Akhalskya (former Ashgabat), Tashauzskaya and other areas "for shortcomings in work."

He stressed that the country cannot feed itself properly, if it does not boost cereals' production to 1.5 million tonnes by the end of the century in line with a Zerno or grain program.

Niyazov pledged every possible assistance to the farmers and revealed plans to buy elite wheat seeds in Russia, Iran, and Turkey. He also calling for revising the purchasing farm prices and ordered the agriculture department to cut areas under crops from 600,000 to 400,000 hectares and turn out 1.2 million tonnes of grain next year.

Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan: Conference Discusses Agricultural Problems

LD0708184796 Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 6 Aug 96 p1

[Unattributed article: "August is the season to accumulate a rich harvest"]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Islam Karimov set important tasks for the further development of various branches of the economy and also of agriculture at a Cabinet of Ministers meeting held to review Uzbekistan's economic development over the first six months of the year and to discuss the progress of the reforms being implemented in our republic.

A telephone conference held on 3 August in Tashkent discussed these tasks, focussing in particular on questions connected with the further deepening of economic reforms in the countryside - the procurement of cereal seeds for the 1997 harvest, the improvement of cotton cultivation, the preparations for the cotton harvest, fodder procurement and post-harvest plowing work.

Those taking part in the teleconference, which was held at the Ministry of Agriculture, included the chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakistan, the heads of regional and district administrations, the heads of regional and district agroindustrial complexes, of other relevant organizations, enterprises and farms, and also the head of other departments relating to ministries and agroindustrial complex.

Speaking at the conference, First Deputy Prime Minister Ismail Jurabekov stressed that many heads of districts and farms are working stably and efficiently, using the possibilities created by the state in an effective way. Despite unfavorable weather conditions, the grain-growers of our country have worked well this year. They have yielded 2.7 million tonnes of grain, of which 1.8 million tonnes has been sold to the state. Farms in Andizhan, Fergana, Surkhandarya, Bukhara, Tashkent, and Namangan regions have achieved especially good results in grain-growing.

However, the work in this sphere in other regions cannot be called satisfactory. The heads of some regions, districts and farms still do not understand that increasing grain production is an important state policy.

Everybody understands that the basis for a rich harvest next year is high-quality seeds. However, because of the lack of supervision in a majority of districts and farms, the work to create a supply of cereal seeds and chemical disinfection of seeds has been haphazard. As a result, farms in Dzhizak region have received only 6,100 tonnes of seeds instead of the required 45,500 tonnes. The needs of farms in Syrdarya Region have been met by only 17 percent. Checks have revealed the following: many farms confuse things and make mistakes in their reports on the volume of seeds accumulated. Thus, today farms in Nurata, Pakhtachi, Akaltyn, and Yangiyul districts have not accumulated a single tonne of cereal seeds. And what can be said about the fact that only two to five percent of seeds have been procured in Kegeyli, Romita, Kagan, Arnasay, and Gullyaaral districts?

According to specialists, enough cotton has been grown in the fields today to yield the planned harvest. However despite this fact, the situation in agriculture remains serious. A number of heads of district administrations and farms regard their work indifferently and carelessly. Necessary agricultural measures are not taken in time. In some districts if often happens that fields are not weeded and the cotton crop is not watered and cultivated in time.

In some districts plant growth in the field is lagging 15-20 days behind. Despite this, measures are not being taken to improve crop management. The work to fight cotton pests has been haphazard in a number of regions and in Karakalpakistan.

In order to carry out the cotton harvest on schedule and without losses, a lot depends in many respects on

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the state of harvesting machinery. In this connection, specific attention has been given to ensuring that all machinery is up and running in time for the cotton harvesting campaign. It has been emphasized that all efforts must be mobilized to finish this work by 1 September. As August is the key month for bringing in a rich harvest, then attention is has been drawn to the necessity of carrying out all work especially efficiently this month.

Attention was also given at the conference to the problem of ensuring that the land is plowed properly and in good time after the harvest is over. In a whole list of places this work is still being approached in the old way and it is being delayed for no good reason. Their was also severe criticism of the work of many regional heads who are well aware how important fodder procurement is for livestock farming, but do not get involved in it and do not take any measures to prevent the decline in livestock production. In this connection the need to consider precise organizational measures to strengthen the management of this sphere and remove existing shortcomings was stressed.

Reports by the chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakistan, and the heads of Namangan, Fergana, Bukhara, Tashkent, Syrkhandarya, Kashakadarya, Samarkand, and Khorezm regions on planned measures to resolve agricultural problems was heard at the conference.

Deputy prime ministers of the republic Rim Giniyatullin, Uktam Ismailov, Kamiljan Rahimov, Qayum Haqqulov and Mirabror Usmanov took part in the conference.

Uzbekistan: Journalists Union Joins Movement for Press Freedom

LD0708190996 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Uzbek 1300 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An expanded plenum of the Union of Journalists of the Republic of Uzbekistan has considered proposals to further improve the activities of the union, give socio-economic assistance to the mass media, and deepen democratic processes in the work of the press, radio, and television. The plenum endorsed the decision by the union's secretariat for the Union of Journalists to join the Foundation for Support of the Press in the republic.

The same decision was adopted at the sitting of the board of the Foundation for Support of the Press of Uzbekistan.

The decisions passed by the plenum of the Union and the Foundation board were endorsed at a joint session of editors of the mass media, the leadership of the Union of Journalists and the Foundation board. A working group has been set up to draw up proposals for organizing a new socio-political, nongovernmental foundation which will help to ensure full freedom of the press in our country, and give socio-political and moral and financial support to journalists.

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Armenia

Armenia: German Representative to OSCE Visits Karabakh

NC0808083596 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0348 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YEREVAN ("Lragir" daily), 08/06/96 — German representative to OSCE Minsk group Frank Lambach has visited the Republic of Mountainous Karabakh [RMK] from 2 to 4 August.

He met with RMK Foreign Minister Arkadi Ghukasian, Chairman of the RMK National Council Artur Tovmasian, and RMK Prime Minister Leonard Petrosian. The sides discussed the position of the Karabakh side in regard with resolution of the conflict, and coordinated possible further actions in the peace process. Mr. Lambach has left for Yerevan on 4 August.

Armenia: Ter-Petrosyan Receives German OSCE Representative

NC0608151396 Yerevan SNARK in English 1112 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, August 5 (SNARK) — Today, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan received Germany's representative to the Minsk OSCE group Frank Lambach.

President's Press Office informed SNARK that issues concerning the negotiation process on Karabakh conflict settlement were considered during the meeting.

Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Vardan Oskanyan, Armenia's Ambassador to Germany Feliks Mamikonyan and German Ambassador to Armenia Carola Meuller-Holtkemper attended the meeting as well.

Armenia: Russian Negotiator Kazimirov Comments on Karabakh Talks

NC0208160796 Yerevan SNARK in English 1450 GMT 2 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, August 2 (SNARK)—Vladimir Kazimirov, Russian President's former Representative to Negotiations on Karabakh Conflict Settlement, stated in an exclusive interview with SNARK that the conflicting sides continue to stick to the principle of "Everything or Nothing".

Neither of the sides will get "everything", Kazimirov stressed adding that the later the conflict is settled the more is the risk that the military activities will be restarted in the region.

According to the Russian diplomat, there is an objective basis for the final settlement of the conflict, such as the cease-fire maintained in the region for over two years, the existing mechanism of settling the possible incidents, as well as the negotiation process. The conflicting sides should take into account this basis and take their chances, Kazimirov added.

However, the authorities of the conflicting sides still believe that the conflict can be solved without any losses, Kazimirov noted.

I wish them peace which will come only through realism, through sober attitude of the authorities of the conflicting sides, Kazimirov said.

Today, Vladimir Kazimirov and his successor for the office of Russian President's Representative to the Karabakh Conflict Settlement left for Baku.

Armenia: Ter-Petrosyan Supporter Confident of His Reelection

LD0708142696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1408 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YEREVAN, Aug 7 (Interfax) - Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan will win the presidential elections in the country planned for September 22 in the first round of the elections, Ter-Usik Lazarian, leader of the ruling Armenian Pan-National Movement, told a news conference in Yerevan on Wednesday.

The incumbent president "has almost no serious competitors," Lazaryan said.

About 40,000 signatures in Ter-Petrosyan's support have been collected instead of the 25,000 signatures required by national legislation for the official registration of a presidential hopeful, he said.

Besides Ter-Petrosyan, presidential bids have been submitted to the Central Electoral Commission by Aram Sarkisyan, nominated for president by the Democratic Party of Armenia; Paruir Airikyan of the opposition Union for National Self-Determination organization; Ashot Manucharyan, the Scientific-Production and Civic Union; Sergey Badalyan, the Communist Party; Lenser Agalovyan, the Artzakh-Aiastan party; Vazgen Manukyan, the National Democratic Union; and Rafael Kazaryan.

Kazaryan has been nominated for Armenian president by a presidential action committee.

None of the presidential hopefuls has so far been officially registered.

The deadline for the official registration of presidential candidates with the Central Electoral Commission is August 22.

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Armenia: Regulations for Presidential Election Campaign Approved

LD0708174596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1619 GMT 7 Aug 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Armenian Central Electoral Commission approved the regulations regarding the presidential election campaign during its session in Yerevan on Tuesday.

The presidential election campaign will officially begin on August 23 and end at midnight of September 21.

Electioneering on September 22, the day of the presidential elections, is banned.

Under Armenian legislation, parties, electoral blocs and presidential action committees have the right to hold rallies and marches, organize meetings with voters, publish and distribute placards and other propaganda material.

The Central Electoral Commission gives presidential candidates, parties and action committees the right to use the state-run media for free.

Presidential candidates can make five appearances on the air on radio and television totalling 90 minutes for free.

Presidential candidates can buy not more than 180 minutes for their appearance on television and radio, paying for them out of the electoral fund's money.

Under the law on presidential elections in Armenia, presidential candidates cannot give voters money, food, goods or other presents personally or through middlemen during the election campaign.

Representatives of the opposition, including deputy Seiran Avagyan, head of the electoral headquarters of former prime minister and presidential hopeful Vazgen Manukyan, confirmed that legislation has not been breached during the preparations for the Armenian presidential elections.

The electoral headquarters of Manukyan who has been nominated for president by the opposition National Democratic Union party is currently organizing meetings with voters in almost all Armenian regions, Avagyan said.

Local administrations "are friendly toward the opposition's representatives," he said, adding that the situation was different during the 1995 parliamentary elections.

"The electoral campaign is proceeding normally," Avagyan said.

Manukian currently stands a good chance of winning the presidential elections, Avagyan said.

Manukyan has managed to collect some 85,000 signatures in his support in all 11 Armenian regions "without problems," he said. Under the law on presidential elections, a presidential candidate needs to muster 25,000 signatures for official registration.

"Such broad support" shows that "the overwhelming majority of the Armenian population will not be resigned to the present poor situation in the country," Avagyan said.

"Voters intend to change the political, social and economic life of the country by their votes and pin serious hope on the future presidential elections," Avagyan said.

The National Democratic Union hopes that many of the "opposition-minded voters" will come to the polls, he said.

A high voter turnout in the presidential elections may become a factor ensuring Manukyan's victory in the first round of the elections, Avagyan said.

He does not discount the possibility that a second round of the elections may have to be held. However, a low voter turnout may result in the re-election of incumbent President Levon Ter-Petrosyan during the first round of the elections, Avagyan said.

Regarding Manukyan's electioneering strategy, Avagyan said the National Democratic Union's presidential nominee "pays special attention to televised statements and direct meetings with voters."

Seven candidates are currently claiming the Armenian presidency.

The Central Electoral Commission has invited international observers from the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the European Union and OSCE member states to come to Armenia to monitor the elections.

Armenia expects to receive official responses from these international organizations within ten days.

No observers from the European Parliament will monitor the Armenian presidential elections, Central Electoral Commission Chairman Khachatur Bezirdzhyan told Interfax.

"The European Parliament's representatives do not monitor ballots in democratic countries," he said.

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Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan: Aliyev Leaves for Yeltsin's Inauguration

NC0808074996 Baku TURAN in English 1212 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU/07.08.96/TURAN— Today at 12.00 Geydar Aliyev has left for Moscow for participation in the inauguration of Russia's president which is to take place on August 9. Geydar Aliyev will stay in Moscow till August 10.

Azerbaijan: Aliyev, Armenian President May Meet in Moscow

LD0708135396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1324 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, Aug 7 (Interfax) — Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev does not discount the possibility of his meeting with his Armenian counterpart, Levon Ter-Petrosyan, in Moscow where the two presidents will come to attend the inauguration of Russian President Boris Yeltsin slated for August 9.

"Such a meeting is not difficult to organize," Aliyev said in an interview with national television at the Baku airport on his departure for Moscow on Wednesday.

"If there is a need, [we] will meet," he said.

Aliyev said he would hold talks with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin in Moscow.

He said they would concentrate on removing the blockade of communications on the Azerbaijani-Russian border that were closed at the end of 1994 because of developments in Chechnya.

Aliyev said he and Chernomyrdin would also consider the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict.

The Moscow talks will be aimed at "further intensification of bilateral relations," the Azerbaijani president said.

Azerbaijan: Bomb Threat to Baku Department Store

LD0708165096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1605 GMT 7 Aug 96

[By Sevinj Abdullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, August 7 (Itar-Tass) — The capital of Azerbaijan spent five hours in suspension today after a Russian-speaking stranger called twice at noon to report that a powerful bomb had been planted in the city's central department store.

Officers of the National Security Ministry spent five hours looking for the bomb but, fortunately, found nothing. Deputy minister of national security Galib Khalykov told Itar-Tass after the operation that the stranger who warned about the bomb was judged to be around 30 years of age, he spoke Russian with a strong accent and knew no Azeri.

An unofficial version is that the threat may have been intended as a warning to competitors in trade. One argument against this version is that the Baku department store, just as all other state-controlled retail outlets, is only just surviving and can hardly be regarded as a powerful competitor on the city retail market.

Georgia

Georgia: President Resumes Work, Plans To Visit Moscow

LD0708191796 Tbilisi SAKINFORM in Russian 1630 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] [No dateline as received] After a short holiday in Borjomi [a spa in southwest Georgia], on 7 August Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze returned to Tbilisi and resumed work.

A SAKINFORM correspondent has been told at the president's press service that Eduard Shevardnadze intends to go to Moscow and participate in the inauguration of Russian President Boris Yeltsin set for 9 August. During his visit to the Russian capital, the presidents of the two countries will hold a dialogue and discuss pressing issues regarding Georgian-Russian relations.

Georgia: Shevardnadze Leaves for Yeltsin's Inauguration Ceremony

LD0808143396 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Georgian 1345 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi [no date as received] — Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze left for Moscow at 1800 on 8 August to participate in the inauguration ceremony of Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Georgia: Rodionov Pictured With Georgian Counterpart

MM0808135196 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0400 GMT 2 Aug 96

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Video report on preparations for large-scale exercises to be held next week in Georgia by N. Kandiashvili, identified by caption; figures in brackets denote broadcast time in GMT in hours, minutes, and seconds]

[FBIS Translated Text] [041130] [Kandiashvili over video of exterior, interior of army camp, soldiers training] According to the republic Defense Ministry Press

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Center, command and staff exercises and topic-based hearings have begun in various subdivisions of the ministry. Commanders of a number of troop categories have already submitted plans for the maneuvers to the generals. The maneuvers will be commanded personally by Defense Minister Vardiko Nadabaidze. The leadership of the republic's Armed Forces has repeatedly stressed that rebuilding the Georgian Army would not be possible without substantial help from the Russian Federation. The Russian Defense Ministry, now under the leadership of Igor Rodionov, is fully implementing its promises on rendering military and technical assistance to Georgia and training Georgian military cadres at Moscow higher educational establishments.

Incidentally, Vardiko Nadabaidze was the first CIS defense minister that Igor Rodionov met. An agreement on continued cooperation between the two countries' defense ministries was signed at this meeting. There is no doubt either about the fact that, owing to its geopolitical interests, the Russian Federation will always strive to maintain established mutual relations with Georgia. As we know, Georgia has extended the presence of Russian military bases in the republic by 25 years, as a sign of mutual trust. [041235] [video shows army camp, troops training, three tanks in a field, Nadabaidze seated at a desk and in talks with Rodionov, more soldiers training]

Georgia: Relations Between Parliament, President Viewed

AU0808105896 Tbilisi 7 DGHE in Georgian 26 Jul-1 Aug 96 p 4

[Article by Levan Tarkhnishvili: "Georgian Parliament: Unrealizable Dreams. The Tension Between Eduard Shevardnadze and Zurab Zhvania Is Hidden, Although the Georgian Population Has Already Seen Two Signs of It"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We will now look at relations between Parliament, the president, and the government. Unlike the battles within Parliament, opposition between the government and Parliament is more open and the public is more or less aware of what is going on.

There are many different groupings and factions in the Georgian Parliament. Each has its own aims, ambitions, and interests. It is precisely these factors that determine their relations with the government and the president. However, despite this diversity, it is difficult to find a force in Parliament that has not criticized the government or a part of it at least once. There are basically three reasons for such a negative attitude toward the government.

First, one should point out that the government and its actions are currently outside Parliament's sphere of influence. Parliament's role in the composition of the government is minimal and is confined only to approving appointments. It virtually does not participate in determining government policy. The one thing left for deputies is to subject the government and its individual members to a hail of criticism. In so doing, if they cannot exert minimal influence upon the government, they at least have a sense of their own importance. This factor is enhanced by the huge ambitions of deputies. The president's, to put it mildly, strange policy on cadres, a result of which allows people to enter the government whose party was unable to cross the 5-percent barrier at the last elections, also plays its role. And it should be clear that such appointments are not enthusiastically greeted by the leaders of those political organizations that were victorious in the elections.

The second factor is more subjective, although it is linked to a certain extent to current legislation. According to the latter, the Georgian president directs the activities of the government and, correspondingly, it is he who should assume responsibility for any mistakes. In particular, this concerns the determination of the fundamental directions of the development of global policy and individual spheres. It is precisely here that the subjective factor that was previously mentioned comes into play. Representatives of the pro-Shevardnadze camp realize very well that their main trump card is the personality of Eduard Shevardnadze. Based on this, by criticizing the president, they are cutting off their noses to spite their faces. They are trying to strengthen the image of the president as a person who is unsullied and who makes no mistakes and, at the same time, the serious socioeconomic situation, the corruption that prevails in the ranks of the government, about which there is much gossip, and the mood of the people force them to criticize the government's policy and actions. As a result of all this, the deputies, while criticizing the government and individual ministers for their sins, are trying to ascribe the president's mistakes to them as well. The Greens represent a very small exception to this trend, but more about this later.

The third reason for the large-scale criticism of the government lies in the president's political tactics. We remind you that the fundamental principle underlying these tactics is the existence of forces of equal strength between which the Georgian president plies. As a result of these tactics, each force is constantly afraid that the president will choose the second group as the base organization, which will weaken it (the first force) and cause it to disappear from the political arena. Rcheulishvili's Socialist Party and Goguadze's "Tanadgoma" bloc are an example of this. On the basis of its tactics, the Georgian government is not a team composed of

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like-minded people but a mechanical total of individual ministers. Zealous supporters and opponents of the IMF can find a place on the government team. Advocates of a liberal market economy and so-called supporters of state capitalism peacefully coexist in our government. As a result, each grouping in Parliament finds people within the government whose position is incompatible with their own and makes them an object of criticism.

On the basis of what has been said, everyone in Parliament, who is not too lazy to do so, criticizes the entire government and individual ministers. In this respect, one can single out in particular the Union of Georgia's Citizens or, more specifically, the Greens among them.

The strained relations between Zurab Zhvania, leader of the Greens and chairman of Parliament, and State Minister Niko Lekishvili are public knowledge. The conflict between them and the reasons behind it have been given extensive coverage in the mass media and we will not dwell on this. We will only point out that the Union of Georgia's Citizens, which was victorious in the elections, and its leaders believe that this victory and their intellectual base give them the right and the means to govern the country [and enjoy] all the resulting privileges. However, following the elections, they were given instead only one minor ministry. The current situation and Eduard Shevardnadze's tactics almost do not leave the Greens with any chance to extend their sphere of influence and place the government as well as Parliament within it. In the event that the Greens emerge victorious in their struggle with Niko Lekishvili, there is only a minimal chance that a state minister will be appointed who will support Zurab Zhvania. More realistically, if Lekishvili were to be replaced, it would be by a person close to the Georgian president, someone who can be controlled and who, in comparison with the former mayor of Tbilisi [Lekishvili], has an untainted (on the surface at least) reputation.

At the same time, Shevardnadze has already intimated to the number two in the state that he should have less hope in the next elections. During a meeting with parliamentary activists, Eduard Shevardnadze stated semi-officially that he planned to run for a second term as president. So, Z. Zhvania will have to postpone his dream for a further five years in 2000. This will give a certain advantage to other young politicians who will be future rivals to the Parliament chairman.

All this, naturally, is putting a strain on relations between the number one and number two in Georgia. This tension is currently hidden, although the Georgian population has already seen two signs of it.

During adoption of the decree on the commission to counter corruption, the Georgian president, for the first time in the country's history, vetoed articles that, in his view, gave excessive powers to the commission. This was a clear blow directed against Zurab Zhvania and his camp. Before going into recess, Parliament, with the direct support of the Greens, also for the first time in its history, did not approve a candidate proposed by the president. We remind you that Parliament did not elect Sandro Kavsadze to the post of ombudsman.

We can expect the tension between these two forces to increase in the future as the Greens are, to all intents and purposes, the only grouping in the Shevardnadze camp that have real political ambitions. It will probably not come to open confrontation as they are in clearly different categories.

Georgia: Prosecutor Issues Statement on Former Security Chief

LD0708194496 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1855 GMT 7 Aug 96

[By Tengiz Pachkoria]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tbilisi, August 7 (Itar-Tass) — The Georgian Prosecutor General's Office issued on Wednesday a statement concerning the fate of the former State Security Service chief, Igor Giorgadze.

The document says that "considering the fact that the Georgian public has once again raised, in the most determined manner, the issue of terrorist Igor Giorgadze, the Georgian Prosecutor General's Office is authorized to state the following: the provision of shelter to terrorists, irrespective of the country, is politically inadmissible. Such actions are incompatible with the obligations assumed lately by the leaders of the eight major countries of the world."

Taking into account the foregoing, the fate of Giorgadze and the group of terrorists associated with him should be considered practically decided, the statement said.

"If this does not happen, there will emerge a serious threat to the security of Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze in connection with summit meetings in Moscow and other cities of Russia," the statement said.

The document stressed that the Georgian Prosecutor General's Office, which has timely provided corresponding materials to its Russian colleagues, is convinced that the authorities in fraternal Russia will take the only correct, although belated, decision.

In October of last year, the leaders of law enforcement bodies of Georgia said in Tbilisi that Giorgadze was one of the organisers of the terrorist act carried out

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on August 29, 1995 in Tbilisi and directed against Shevardnadze.

Georgia: Tbilisi Denies Seeking Turkish Mediation in Abkhaz Conflict

LD0808091696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0846 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, Aug 8 (Interfax) — The Georgian party has never raised the issue on Turkey's possible mediation in settling the Abkhaz conflict, Georgia's Deputy Foreign Minister Giga Burduli told Interfax.

The Georgian press has published information referring to the republic's Foreign Ministry stating that if no mutually acceptable solutions on the Abkhaz settlement are found within a month then Georgia's official circles will refuse Russian mediation and will address the Turkish government with a request to fulfill this mission.

According to Burduli, "the United Nations coordinates the negotiation process as a whole and it defines the mediators."

Participants of the Georgian-Abkhazian talks "have taken a time-out to collate their positions with the leadership of Georgia and Abkhazia," he said.

"It does not mean that the negotiations are at a dead end," Burduli said.

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Latvia

Latvia: Premier Targets EU, NATO Membership Top Priority

WS0808143896 Tallinn BNS in English 1300 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Aug 8, BNS — Latvia should consistently continue the course toward the joining of the European Union and NATO, according to the Baltic country's Prime Minister Andris Skele.

The EU and NATO integration is one of the key tasks included in the premier's action program for the coming year, which is drafted to supplement the government declaration.

To achieve the EU membership, Latvia should align its legislature with the EU standards. Skele has intentions to make ministries and ministers responsible for the ordering of Latvian normatives in conformity with the EU requirements.

Latvia: Swedish Premier To Ask NATO To Support Baltic Admission

LD0508115296 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1100 GMT 5 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Sweden will ask other NATO countries to support the Baltic states' admission into the organization if it is supported by the United States. This was stated by Swedish Prime Minister Goran Persson in a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Andris Skele today. Persson also promised Sweden's support for the Baltic states' integration into the European Union, asking other members of the union to make their stance on the issue of the Baltic states' admission more specific.

The conversation took place at the initiative of the Latvian side in connection with Persson's forthcoming visit to the United States. A meeting with President Bill Clinton is scheduled for him during the visit. It is planned to discuss with Clinton the security problems of the states of the Baltic Sea region.

Latvia: Swedish Premier Briefs Skele on U.S. Visit

LD0708132196 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1200 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A telephone conversation between Swedish Prime Minister Goeran Persson and Prime Minister Andris Skele took place today. During the telephone conversation, the Swedish prime minister spoke about his visit to the United States and talks with President Bill Clinton. Persson stressed that Baltic security is related to the security of other countries; however, Sweden cannot undertake the role of a guarantor of security of the Baltic states because these issues have to be tackled in complex, also involving Russia.

As far as NATO enlargement is concerned, Persson said that it is not an issue for the United States alone and it should also be discussed by other NATO countries.

Latvia: Prime Minister Skele Lists Government's Achievements

LD0808085496 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0800 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Assessing the work of the government over the past seven months, Prime Minister Andris Skele stated in a program on Latvian Television yesterday that the first job that has been completed has been a reduction in the budget deficit. The prime minister stressed that interest rates on credits have fallen and excise duty on petrol have been increased. The prime minister also noted the beginning of putting borders in order, kilometers of roads which have been surfaced, and an improvement in financial discipline in the country carried out by the government over its first seven months in office.

Latvia: Prime Minister Skele Optimistic on Deficit-Free Budget

LD0808104296 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0900 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In his speech on Latvian Television yesterday, Prime Minister Andris Skele said the decline in people's standards of living will not (?stop) if the work of the government and politicians is not qualitative enough. Assessing the work of the government over the past seven months, the prime minister said at the same time that the basis is gradually evolving for a successful development of the national economy and the state. The revenue of the state treasury is larger than has been planned and continuing in this way it will be possible to end the year with a budget deficit of 40 million lats instead of 60 million lats, as has been planned. This will allow in its turn to start the next year with a deficit-free budget.

Latvia: Parliament Appoints Five Ministers

LD0808145296 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Saeima expressed confidence in five ministers today. Anatolijs Gorbunovs, a representative of the Latvian Way, was appointed minister of the environment and regional development; Indulis Emsis [of the Latvian Green Party was reappointed] minister of state for the environment and regional development; Rihards Piks, a representative of

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the Union of Peasants, [was appointed] minister of culture; Juris Dzenis, a representative of the Democratic Party Saimnieks, [was appointed] minister of state for industry, property and privatization; and Ernests Jurkans, [also a representative of the Democratic Party Saimnieks], was appointed minister of state for local governments.

Latvia: Former Soviet Citizens Need To Apply for Residence Permits

WS0708083196 Tallinn BNS in English 1900 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Aug 6, BNS — Former Soviet citizens, having obtained citizenship of any other country until Sept. 1, have to apply for permanent stay permits by the end of the year, BNS was told in the government press center.

Such amendments were passed to the law on foreigners and stateless persons' stay and arrival in Latvia by the government on Tuesday.

Amendments determine that individuals, who will acquire citizenship of some other country after Sept. 1, have to submit their applications to Latvia's authorities in six months after the citizenship granting.

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